はがねのれんきんじゅつし

鋼の錬金術師

FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST

荒川 弘

Hiromu Arakawa

16

GANGAN COMICS

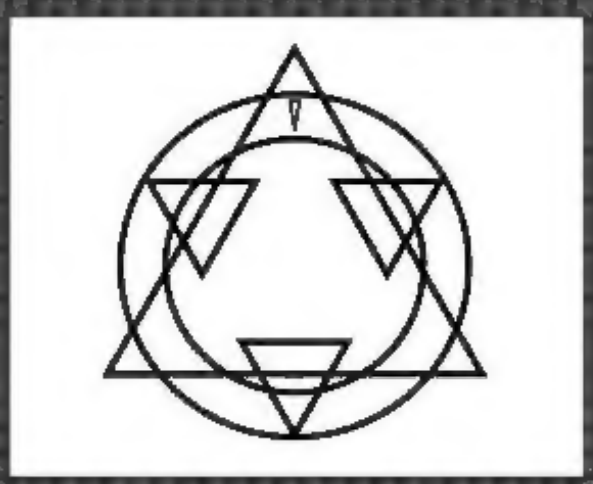
FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST™

16

Story and art by
Hiromu Arakawa

In my opinion, the phrase "moe" is way overused lately.

—Hiromu Arakawa, 2007



Born in Hokkaido (northern Japan), Hiromu Arakawa first attracted national attention in 1999 with her award-winning manga *Stray Dog*. Her series *Fullmetal Alchemist* debuted in 2001 in Square Enix's monthly manga anthology *Shonen Gangan*.

FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST

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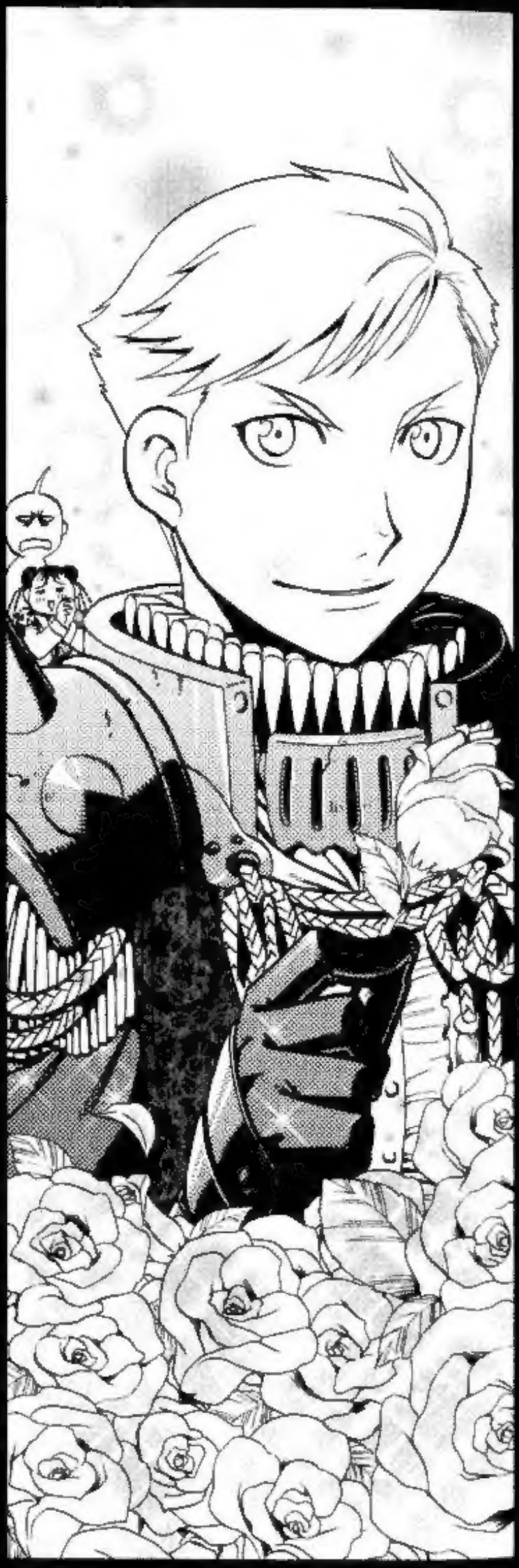
荒川弘

HIROMU ARAKAWA



鋼の錬金術師
FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST

CHARACTERS
FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST

■ ウィンリィ・ロックベル

Winry Rockbell

■ スカー

Scar

■ リザ・ホークアイ

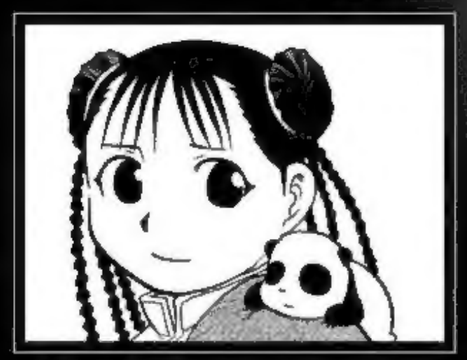
Riza Hawkeye

■ キング・ブラッドレイ

King Bradley

■ ゾルフ・J・キンブリー

Solf J. Kimblee



■ メイ・チャン

May Chang

■ アルフォンス・エルリック

Alphonse Elric

■ エドワード・エルリック

Edward Elric

■ アレックス・ルイ・アームストロング

Alex Louis Armstrong

■ ロイ・マスタング

Roy Mustang

OUTLINE
FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST

Using a forbidden alchemical ritual, the Elric Brothers attempted to bring their dead mother back to life. But the ritual went wrong, consuming Edward Elric's leg and Alphonse Elric's entire body. At the cost of his arm, Edward was able to graft his brother's soul into a suit of armor. Equipped with mechanical "auto-mail" to replace his missing limbs, Edward became a state alchemist, serving the military, while roaming the world with his brother in search of the Philosopher's Stone, the legendary substance with the power to restore what they have lost.

Their search hits a dead end when they learn the gruesome truth about the Philosopher's Stone and their government's complicity in its creation. Blackmailed by the enemy, Ed, Al and Colonel Roy Mustang are powerless to do anything with their newfound knowledge. As they adjust to their new reality, Ed gets a history lesson from Riza Hawkeye about the Ishbalan civil war and the atrocities that took place when Amestrian soldiers followed orders instead of their hearts.

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Chapter 62
Beyond the Dream

AROOO

...EVERY-THING I KNOW ABOUT ISHBAL.

THAT'S...

...IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THERE'S ANOTHER CIVIL WAR OR MORE CONFLICT WITH RIVAL NATIONS!

...EVEN IF HE SUCCEEDS, AS LONG AS THIS COUNTRY REMAINS A MILITARY DICTATORSHIP...

I KNOW COLONEL MUSTANG INTENDS TO BE THE NEXT PRESIDENT, BUT...

THAT'S TRUE.

MAYBE HE'LL DO A BETTER JOB OF PROTECTING THIS COUNTRY, BUT IN THE END, WE'LL STILL END UP KILLING COUNTLESS PEOPLE FROM OTHER COUNTRIES!

I SEE...

ARMS REDUCTION MEANS ABOLISHING THE STATE ALCHEMIST SYSTEM AS WELL.

MAYBE THAT'S THE ONLY WAY.

THEN WE CAN NEGOTIATE WITH OTHER NATIONS TO REDUCE OUR ARMAMENTS AND SEARCH FOR A WAY THAT WE CAN ALL SURVIVE.

OUR FIRST PRIORITY SHOULD BE TO RESTORE POWER TO THE PARLIAMENT— WHICH IS JUST THE MILITARY'S PUPPET RIGHT NOW—AND MOVE THIS COUNTRY TOWARDS TRUE DEMOCRACY.

THAT MEANS-

HOLD ON!

THOSE WHO WERE PRAISED AS HEROES DURING WARTIME WILL BE SEEN AS MURDERERS WHEN THERE'S PEACE.

YES.

THE COLONEL KNOWS THAT, BUT HE'S STILL AIMING FOR THE TOP?

THEN THAT MEANS HE'S ON A PATH OF SELF-DESTRUCTION!

I, TOO, MIGHT END UP ON TRIAL FOR THE INJUSTICES THAT I COMMITTED IN ISHBAL.

NOT ONLY THE COLONEL, BUT PEOPLE LIKE DR. KNOX, WHO CONDUCTED EXPERIMENTS ON HUMAN BEINGS.

OUR UNI-FORMS...

...ARE ALL THAT'S PRO-TECTING US NOW.

THE HOMUNCULI MAY HAVE ***STARTED*** THE WAR, BUT ***WE*** WERE THE ONES WHO ***CARRIED IT OUT.***

KNOWING HIM, HE'LL USE ANY MEANS NECESSARY TO DEFEND HIS SUBORDINATES FROM BEING IMPLICATED.

HE SWORE TO PROTECT THOSE BELOW HIM.

THE CAUSE OF THE CIVIL WAR WAS ENVY SHOOTING AND KILLING THAT ISHBALAN CHILD.

BUT...

IT'S NOT FAIR THAT THE COLONEL AND YOU SHOULD BE THE ONES WHO ARE PUNISHED!

THE ***HOMUNCULI*** WERE THE ONES WHO WERE PULLING ALL THE STRINGS FROM THE SHADOWS!

ARGOO

WE DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE WHEN TO END OUR OWN LIVES.

WE ENDED THE LIVES OF COUNT-LESS PEOPLE.

THE COLONEL, MYSELF...

...AND UNDOUBT-EDLY COM-MODORE HUGHES MUST HAVE FELT THE SAME WAY.

THAT'S WHY, AT THE VERY LEAST, WE WANT THE ***NEXT*** GENERATION TO BE ABLE TO LAUGH AND LIVE A HAPPY EXISTENCE.

OF COURSE YOU WANT THE WORLD TO BE A BETTER PLACE.

THAT'S NOT RIGHT !

...BUT...

THAT'S NOT FAIR...

BUT DON'T ***YOU*** WANT TO BE HAPPY TOO !?

"PROMISE ME THAT YOU WON'T HURT MY YOUNGER BROTHER."

"YOU DUMB OLDER BRO-THER !!"

"I WON'T LET YOU CHOOSE DEATH!!"

SELF-SACRIFICE IS NOTHING MORE THAN SELF-GRATIFI-CATION!!

BECAUSE WE SURVIVED ISHBAL, WE FEEL THIS IS OUR *DUTY*.

THIS ISN'T ABOUT *MARTYR-DOM*.

INSTEAD OF WORRYING ABOUT *US*, SHOULDN'T YOU BE THINKING ABOUT THE THINGS THAT *YOU* STILL NEED TO DO?

UNTIL ALPHONSE REGAINS HIS FORMER BODY, YOU'RE PUTTING ALL OF YOUR OWN NEEDS SECOND, ISN'T THAT TRUE?

HUH ?

YOU'RE KIND OF LIKE THAT TOO, AREN'T YOU, ED?

THERE MUST BE MANY PEOPLE WHO CAN'T WAIT FOR THE DAY YOU SUCCEED.

LIKE GETTING BACK YOUR AND ALPHONSE'S ORIGINAL BODIES.

I'LL BE SURE TO GET IN TOUCH IF I FIND OUT ANYTHING THAT CAN HELP YOU.

..YEAH.

AREN'T YOU REALLY JUST THEIR HOSTAGE?

WILL YOU BE ALL RIGHT?

I KNOW SO ***LITTLE*** ABOUT ALCHEMY, YET I'VE BEEN ASSIGNED THE POSITION CLOSEST TO THE HOMUNCULI AND THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE.

IT'S IRONIC..

OH.. I ALMOST FORGOT! I HAVE A MESSAGE FOR THE COLONEL.

TELL HIM THAT ***SCAR*** IS STILL NEARBY.

GOT IT.

YEAH. BRIGHT SIDE...

LOOK ON THE ***BRIGHT SIDE.***

AS THE PRESIDENT'S AIDE, IF HE LETS HIS GUARD DOWN, I CAN ALWAYS ***CUT HIS THROAT*** WHILE HE SLEEPS.

WOOF!

HM ?

..LIEU-TEN-ANT.

THANKS FOR TELLING ME ABOUT ISHBAL.

A LOT OF BAD THINGS HAPPENED IN ISHBAL.

HE WOULD *FLAME* THE ISHBALANS AND I WOULD *DISSECT* THEM.

I EVEN WORKED WITH MUSTANG.

EVENTUALLY I BEGAN TO BELIEVE THAT I NO LONGER HAD THE RIGHT TO TREAT *LIVING* HUMAN BEINGS.

I WAS FORCED TO WORK ON CORPSE... AFTER CORPSE... AFTER CORPSE.

I DID EVERYTHING FOR THE NOBLE GOAL OF "*HUMAN EVOLUTION.*"

THAT'S ENOUGH OLD FOLKS' TALK.

CLANK

WELL THEN...

SIP...

THAT'S WHY I BECAME A PATH-OLOGIST AFTER THE WAR ENDED.

YOU KIDS NEED TO GO TO BED.

LANFAN? YOU'RE IN THERE TOO, RIGHT?

MAY ?

NO MORE BRAWL-ING.

THIS IS ONE GEEZER WHO DOESN'T LIKE THE SIGHT OF CHILDREN TRYING TO KILL ONE ANOTHER.

ALL RIGHT.
JUST MAKE SURE YOU'RE NOT FOL-LOWED.
I'LL COME BACK TOMOR-ROW.
DR. KNOX.. IT'S GETTING LATE. I SHOULD GET BACK TO MY LODGINGS.
KLACK
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR ALL YOUR HELP.
I HAVEN'T HAD A CHANCE TO THANK YOU PROPERLY YET
UM.. MR. AR-MOR..
YOU REMEMBER EDWARD ELRIC, THE LITTLE ALCHEMIST, DON'T YOU?
ELRIC?
ABOUT THIS TALL
I'M HIS LITTLE BROTHER.
CALL ME AL PHONSE.
ALPHONSE ELRIC.

I DON'T HAVE A PHYSICAL BODY.

PLEASE DON'T TELL ANYONE.

YOU'VE BEEN INSIDE MY ARMOR, SO I'M SURE YOU'VE NOTICED...

SO IF YOU'RE "*ITS*" YOUNGER BROTHER, DOES THAT MEAN YOU LOOK THE SAME?

IT

HOW RUDE !!

YOUR BODY... WHAT HAP-PENED TO IT?

UH... WELL... IT WAS ***TAKEN*** SOME-WHERE.

THAT'S WHY WE'RE ON THIS JOUR-NEY-- TO TRY AND GET IT BACK.

TALL... STRONG AND COMPAS-SIONATE...

SHORT BLONDE HAIR...

A ***GENTLE-MAN...***

AND I'M A BETTER ***FIGHTER*** THAN MY BIG BROTHER!! BUT I DON'T HAVE A TEMPER!! I'M A ***GENTLE-MAN!!***

CLEAN-CUT, SHORT, BLONDE HAIR!!

AND YOUR HAIR ?

...

I DON'T LOOK ***MEAN*** LIKE HIM!! I HAVE A VERY ***NICE*** FACE!!

WHAT ABOUT YOUR FACE ?

I'M ***WAY*** TALLER THAN MY BROTHER !!

A MORE

MR. ALPHONSE!

MY ORIGINAL BODY... BACK...

KLANK

KLANK

I REALLY, REALLY HOPE YOU GET YOUR ORIGINAL BODY BACK SOON!!

?

OH... THANKS.

KLANK

WHY AM I KILLING PEOPLE WHEN I'M A DOCTOR

I FEEL PRETTY DOWN AFTER HEARING STORIES ABOUT ISHBAL...

YEAH, ME TOO.

KLANK

I STUDIED ALCHEMY BECAUSE I WANTED TO MAKE MOM HAPPY.

SO HOW DID THINGS END UP LIKE THIS ?

IF MOM COULD SEE US NOW, I BET SHE'D BE REALLY DISAP-POINTED...

AL !

BIG BRO' ! WHAT'S THE MATTER ?

I WAS ON MY WAY TO DR. KNOX'S PLACE.

I'M GLAD WE DIDN'T MISS EACH OTHER !

THEY SAY, "AN ALCHEMIST IS ONE WHO SEEKS THE TRUTH."

THAT SOUNDS AWFULLY PRETENTIOUS. AND WE DON'T EVEN UNDERSTAND A ***FRACTION*** OF WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND US.

SHE TOLD ME ***EVERY-THING.***

THE LIEUTENANT DIDN'T HOLD BACK—EVEN THOUGH I'M STILL PRACTICALLY A KID.

THE COLONEL'S ALREADY THINKING ABOUT WHAT HE'S GOING TO DO AFTER HE GETS WHAT HE WANTS.

I GET IT...

WHAT ARE YOUR DREAMS FOR THE FUTURE?

WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO WHEN YOU GET YOUR BODY BACK?

HM?

AL?

WELL...

SO? TELL ME.

PROM-ISE

...PROMISE NOT TO LAUGH...?

"GETS WHAT HE WANTS"...

I WANT TO EAT AN APPLE PIE.

HAH! THAT'S LIKE A GIRL'S DREAM!!

YOU PROMISED YOU WOULDN'T LAUGH!!

NYA HA!! ARE YOU A GIRL? MRS. AL?

PEH!

HMM...

...AFTER YOU GET YOUR ORIGINAL BODY BACK!?

SO WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, BIG BRO-THER..

HA HA HA HA HA!

WINRY PROMISED TO BAKE ME AN APPLE PIE!!

HER PIE IS OUT OF THIS WORLD!

I ADMIT...

SORRY, SORRY.

I'VE BEEN SO OBSESSED WITH FINDING THE WAY TO DO IT, I HAVEN'T EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT AFTER-WARDS.

I GUESS THE FIRST THING I'D DO IS HEAD TO RESEMBOOL AND SAY HELLO TO OUR TEACHER, JUST TO LET HER KNOW WE'RE OKAY.

OH. YOU'RE RIGHT.

AFTER ALL, SHE HAS BEEN HELPING US OUT A LOT LATELY.

...THEY'LL BE HAPPY TO SEE US, RIGHT?

YUP.

BUT SHE'LL PROBABLY GIVE US A BEATING.

UH HUH.

...WON'T THEY?

THEY'LL BE ALL SMILES...

I TOLD YOU BEFORE THAT I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOUR SMILING FACE AGAIN...

..BUT I WANT TO SEE ***EVERYONE*** SMILING.

ABOUT THAT TOUGH SPOT...

THERE'S FINALLY SOME *HOPE!*

THINGS MAY BE TOUGH RIGHT NOW, BUT THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE CHEERED ME UP.

HEH HEH.

THAT LITTLE GIRL AND SCAR!!

!

THAT'S RIGHT. THEY WERE THE ***ONLY ONES*** WHO COULD.

UH-HUH.

REMEMBER WHEN WE WERE UNDER-GROUND BELOW CENTRAL CITY AND COULDN'T TRANS-MUTE?

WELL, TURNS OUT AT THAT TIME, ***NONE*** OF THE ALCHEMISTS ABOVE GROUND COULD TRANSMUTE ***EITHER.***

THE PIP-SQUEAK IS AT DR. KNOX'S.

I HAVE SOME QUESTIONS TO ASK HER TOMORROW.

THERE MUST BE SOMETHING ***DIFFERENT*** ABOUT THEIR ALCHEMY...

SOME-THING WE DON'T KNOW ABOUT...

GNOOM
GNOOM
GNOOM
GNOOM
GNOOM
GNOOM
GNOOM
GNOOM
GNOOM
WE AREN'T BEATEN YET!!

GWOOH

GWOOH

GRAB

YOU SON OF A BITCH !!

..WAS CREATED OUT OF *THE LIVES* OF OTHER ISHBALANS ?

SO THE STONE USED TO MASSACRE MY PEOPLE...

SQUEEEE

CHK

CHK

GRR!

YOU FORCED MY COUNTRYMEN TO KILL THEIR OWN PEOPLE!!

I'LL DO *ANY-THING* TO ATONE FOR MY SINS...

I UNDER-STAND...

DON'T THINK I'M GOING TO LET YOU DIE SO EASILY !!

BAM

GYAA AAA AAH!

SLAM

CLNCH

KOFF...

...!!

GRIT

AH... ALL RIGHT.

TELL ME MORE ABOUT THE ALCHEMIST NAMED KIMBLEE.

...MARCOH.

I'M GUESSING THAT'S WHAT HE WROTE ABOUT IN HIS NOTES.

BEFORE HE DIED, HE TOLD ME "THERE'S SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT THIS COUNTRY'S ALCHEMY."

ALSO...

THERE WAS ONE SECTION OF MY BROTHER'S RESEARCH THAT I COULDN'T DECIPHER.

"THERE'S SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT THIS COUNTRY'S ALCHEMY"...?

...

YOU'RE A SKILLED ALCHEMIST.

CAN YOU DECIPHER IT?

HUH !?

IF I KILL YOU, THERE WON'T BE ANY PROBLEM, RIGHT?

NO! I'VE ALREADY TOLD YOU, I CAN'T LEAVE!

GOOD. NOW I'M BREAK-ING YOU OUT.

..I'LL TRY.

TAKE OFF YOUR CLOTHES.

...HUH !?

...HUH ?

TIME FOR YOUR..

HEY, DOC.

STRIDE

VENGEANCE

VEN-GEANCE.

DAMMIT!! HE MUST HAVE FOUND OUT MARCOH WAS INVOLVED IN THE EXTERMI-NATION CAMPAIGN!!

IT'S SCAR !!

...THAT BASTARD !!

THERE'S A CHIMERA MISSING.

GWOOM GWOOM

RATTLE RATTLE

HMM...

MARCOH IS AN ALCHEMIST WHO SPECIALIZES IN RESEARCH ON LIVING CREATURES...

EWW... IT'S ALL SQUISHY.

PIT

PAT

PIT

CLAK

CLAK

CLAK

DO YOU THINK THEY'LL FIGURE IT OUT AND COME AFTER US?

HURRY UP IF YOU DON'T WANT THEM TO CATCH YOU.

CLAK

CLAK

CLAK

PIT

PAT

PIT

SHOVE

I'LL DRAW EVEN MORE ATTENTION IF I WALK AROUND TOWN LOOKING LIKE THIS.

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

YOU BLEND IN WELL.

QUIT WORRY-ING. IT'S POINT-LESS.

KLA-TUNK

EARLY THIS MORN-ING.

UH HUH.

THE LITTLE GIRL LEFT !?

WHAT !?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP, DR. KNOX.

I'LL NEVER FORGET WHAT YOU'VE DONE FOR ME.

BOW BOW

WHAT? YOU'RE LEAVING ALREADY?

YOU SHOULD REST A BIT LONGER.

I CAN'T INCONVENIENCE YOU ANY FURTHER.

ANYWAY, I NEED TO MAKE SURE MY COMPANION IS SAFE.

"COMPANION"?

HIS NAME IS *MR. SCAR.* HE HAS AN X-SHAPED SCAR ON HIS FOREHEAD.

YOU'RE TRAVELING WITH A SERIAL KILLER!!?

HUH?

HE'S A GOOD PERSON.

?

DON'T DO IT!! DON'T GET INVOLVED WITH HIM!!

PIP

I'LL BE FINE. I'M GOING NOW.

BE-SIDES...

..I AGREE.

IF I STAY HERE, WE MIGHT END UP FIGHTING.

BUT SHE DIDN'T LEAVE ALL THAT LONG AGO— SHE PROBABLY HASN'T LEFT THE CITY YET.

WHO KNOWS?

SO WHERE'D THE PIPSQUEAK GO?!

YOU'LL LEARN HOW TERRIFYING THE WRATH OF A STATE ALCHEMIST CAN BE!!

I WON'T LET YOU ESCAPE, LITTLE GIRL !!!

DAMMIT! WHY CAN'T SHE STAY IN ONE SPOT!?

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO, BIG BRO-THER?

KLANG

WHAT!? CENTRAL CITY IS *HUGE!* WHERE DO WE LOOK FOR HER!?

FIND HER.

CALM DOWN, DUMMY !!

WHAT'S THE USE OF HAVING MONEY AND POWER IF YOU DON'T USE IT !?!

THAT WOULD BE AN ABUSE OF POWER !!

I'LL ORDER A BLITZ-KRIEG ON THAT LITTLE MOUSE !!

MY RANK'S EQUIVALENT TO A MAJOR! I'LL USE MY POWER TO MOBILIZE THE ARMY!!

OH, MY. HE SURE IS A SPECTACLE.

TEE HEE

MOMMY, LOOK AT THE FUNNY GUY IN THE ARMOR !

PST WHSP

NOW WE BETTER SETTLE DOWN AND MAKE SURE WE DON'T ATTRACT ANY MORE ATTENTION !

HMPH!! I'M ALWAYS COOL-HEADED !

GOOD JOB, AL! I KNEW I COULD DEPEND ON YOU TO KEEP A COOL HEAD!!

RRGH!! YOU'RE RIGHT !!

WE'VE GOTTA *AVOID* DOING ANYTHING THAT'LL ATTRACT ATTENTION TO US! THE PRESIDENT'S GOT HIS EYE ON US AS IT IS!

HUH ?

MR. SCAR— I HOPE YOU'RE ALL RIGHT...

I'M BACK.

SIR! THAT GIRL HAS RETURNED.

OH ?

HE IS NOT OUR COMPANION!

DO WE HAVE A NEW TRAVELING COMPANION?

YOU KNOW DR. KNOX?

ARE YOU THE DOCTOR THAT DR. KNOX TALKED ABOUT!?

OH!

MARCOH...

I'VE HEARD THAT NAME BEFORE...

THIS MAN IS MY *ENEMY*.

MY NAME IS MARCOH. I'M A DOCTOR.

DR. MARCOH?

?

...

HE TOLD ME STORIES ABOUT ISHBAL.

HE SAID HE WAS AN ARMY SURGEON...

!

A DOCTOR? WHAT A LAUGH.

UM...?

THIS IS THE MAN WHO CREATED THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE! HE'S ONE OF THE ONES RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ISHBAL EXTERMINATION CAMPAIGN.

WHERE IS IT!?

DR. MARCOH, DO YOU REALLY KNOW HOW TO MAKE THE STONE HOW !?

UHL.

WELL THAT'S...

THE PHILOS-OPHER'S STONE? I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST A LEGEND.

...IMMOR-TALITY !!

...WELL ?

IF THIS MAN'S YOUR ENEMY, WHY ARE YOU TRAVELING WITH HIM?

!!!

STOP THAT.

IT'S NOT SOME-THING YOU SHOULD DESIRE.

YOU MUSTN'T ASK ABOUT THAT.

ZASH

BECAUSE HE MIGHT PROVE USEFUL TO ME.

KA-

CRAK

MAR-COH.

YES ?

SIR !?

MR. SCAR !?

BZAP

AR RR RGH!!!

DRIP DRIP

OOOAGH!

I ONLY DESTROYED THE OUTER SURFACE OF HIS FACE.

GIRL-

STAUNCH THE BLEED-ING.

EH..?

BUT *ONLY* STOP THE BLEED-ING.

IT'S BETTER FOR HIS FACE TO BE DISFIGURED SO THAT NO ONE WILL RECOGNIZE HIM.

WE'RE MOVING ON SHORT-LY.

HUH? WHERE TO?

TO THE PLACE WHERE I HID MY BROTHER'S NOTEBOOKS.

THE NORTH.

FUMP

YOU KNOW, YOU COULD'VE JUST BROUGHT ME SOME SNACKS.

I WANT CHIPS, NOT BICEPS!

DON'T THINK YOU CAN SLACK OFF WHILE WE'RE GONE.

CAN IT, HAVOC.

A PRE-SENT.

...WHAT'S THIS?

TAKE CARE OF THINGS FOR US WHILE WE'RE AWAY.

SEE YA.

YOU'RE LEAVING ALREADY?

YUP.

UH-HUH.

SEE YA.

SGT. MAJOR FUERY.

...

THEN YOU CAN PROTECT ALL OF US.

EAT UP SO YOU CAN GET BIG AND STRONG.

HERE YA GO, HAYATE.

HEY.

WAR-RANT OFFI-CER FAL-MAN...

SIGH...

A CHESS-BOARD.

WHAT IS IT?

YOU KNOW— THE ONE I WAS PLAYING ON TO PASS THE TIME DURING THE INCIDENT WITH NUMBER 66.

I THOUGHT YOU'D ALREADY LEFT, SIR.

I'VE COME TO RETURN SOME-THING THAT I BOR-ROWED FROM THE COL-ONEL.

SEE YOU AROUND, SGT. MAJOR FUERY.

WELL...

I ALWAYS GET THE WORST POSTS. IT'S FREEZING UP AT NORTH AREA HQ.

I'M GOING TO MISS THESE SUNNY CENTRAL DAYS...

SCRUFF

SEE YA.

HAYATE, YOU TOO.

...

YES, SIR.

UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN.

SKRICH SKRICH SKRICH

KREEEAK

EXCUSE ME, COLONEL.

SKRICH...

NOK NOK

...

CLICK

...

SKRICH SKRICH SKRICH

...I SEE.

LIEU-TENANT.

I CAME TO COLLECT SOME THINGS I LEFT BEHIND.

SKRICH SKRICH

SCAR.

I'LL HAVE TO BE EXTRA CAREFUL TO WATCH MY BACK.

SKRICH

... I HEAR THAT SCAR IS STILL IN THE AREA, SIR.

EDWARD TOLD ME.

THAT'S TRUE, SIR.

KLATA

AFTER ALL, I'M LOSING A VERY TALENTED BODYGUARD.

I'VE LOADED QUITE A BURDEN ON YOU, HAVEN'T I?

OKAY.

DON'T GET KILLED, SIR.

I CAN TOL-ERATE IT A BIT LONG-ER, SIR.

HA HA HA.. YOU'RE TOO GOOD TO ME, LT. HAWKEYE

WELL THEN, COL-ONEL...

KLIK

IF YOU THINK YOU'VE MADE A MISTAKE, THEN SHOOT ME.

YOU MADE A PROMISE TO ME ON THAT DAY.

PERHAPS I'VE PLACED MY LOYALTIES UNWISELY.

TEE HEE

FIP

YES.

TILL WE MEET AGAIN.

SWIP

..TILL WE MEET AGAIN.

SHUT

...TRR...

HEY! I WORK HARD!

PLEASE DON'T SLACK OFF, SIR.

SIGH...

THIS ROOM SEEMS SO MUCH BIGGER NOW.

CREAK

MY PAWNS..
..MY KNIGHT...
...MY ROOK..
..MY BISHOP..
KLAK
BUT..
TWIST
EVEN MY QUEEN HAS BEEN TAKEN FROM ME.
CLACK
... I'M NOT IN CHECK-MATE YET.
CLIK
SQUEE
SQUEE
..AS FOR MY PROS-PECTS...

DINGDONG

HEY.

OH MY!

A R

BAR

IT'S BEEN A WHILE, ROY.

GOOD EVENING, MADAME CHRIST MAS.

YOU LOOK GREAT, VANESSA.

HA HA HA!

OH, IT'S THE COL-ONEL!

ROY! LONG TIME NO SEE. ♡

ANOTHER MAN TOOK ELIZABETH AWAY FROM ME.

WHY DON'T YOU AND ELIZABETH GO SOME-PLACE FUN?

HONESTLY...? NOT SO GOOD. IT'S BEEN A BAD WEEK.

HOW'VE YOU BEEN?

I CAME HERE TO CHEER MYSELF UP.

...

HA HA HA... I'D GO ON A DATE WITH YOU ANYTIME.

OH! DOES THAT MEAN I HAVE A CHANCE NOW?

SLIDE

GIVE ME SOME-THING SPECIAL INSTEAD, MADAME.

I'M STILL RE-COVERING FROM AN INJURY. I CAN'T DRINK.

...WHAT ARE YOU DRINK-ING?

...OKAY.

RUB RUB

ONE MOMENT, PLEASE.

YES.

YES.

NELLY ? MARY ? LUCY ? QUEENIE ?

WHICH ONE ?

LT. GENERAL GRAMAN, THERE'S A WOMAN ON THE PHONE FOR YOU, SIR.

HA HA HA. NOT TOO BAD FOR AN OLD MAN, EH?

..PLEASE DON'T GIVE OUT THIS TOP SECRET PHONE NUMBER TO CIVILIANS.

I'M BEG-GING YOU, SIR..

SHE SAYS HER NAME IS "MADAME CHRISTMAS." SHE'S CALLING FROM A BAR IN CENTRAL CITY.

THIS WITHERED OLD GEEZER'S GOT AN *INVITE.*

GRIN

THIS IS THE CORRECT PICTURE.

I'M REALLY SORRY. PLEASE IGNORE THE PICTURE OF THE ALIEN OVER THERE.

A CAT ?

HERE! WE'RE LOOKING FOR A GIRL WHO'S TRAVELING WITH A CAT THAT LOOKS LIKE THIS!!

MAYBE SHE'S NOT IN CENTRAL CITY ANYMORE AFTER ALL.

AW, JEEZ... HOW MANY DAYS HAVE WE BEEN SEARCHING NOW?

ANOTHER DAY GONE AND NO LEADS ON HER OR HER BLACK-AND-WHITE KITTY.

SKREECH

WE MIGHT AS WELL HEAD BACK TO OUR ROOM.

SIGH...

HOW?

ALPHONSE DOESN'T EXACTLY BLEND IN.

THAT'S TRUE...

VRM VRM

FULL-METAL!

GAH! COL-ONEL!!

HOW'D YOU FIND US!?

VRM

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

LOOKING FOR SOMEONE.

WE HAVEN'T HAD ANY LUCK, SO WE'RE ABOUT TO GO BACK TO OUR ROOM.

THEN GET IN.

I HAVE SOME BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO THAT'S NEAR YOUR LODGINGS ANYWAY.

I SEE... SO THERE'S SOMETHING UNUSUAL ABOUT THE ALCHEMY FROM XING.

TO TELL THE TRUTH, I DON'T WANT TO PUT MYSELF IN YOUR DEBT.

OH, THAT'S RIGHT! SPEAKING OF DEBTS...

GRUMBLE GRUMBLE

ALL RIGHT.

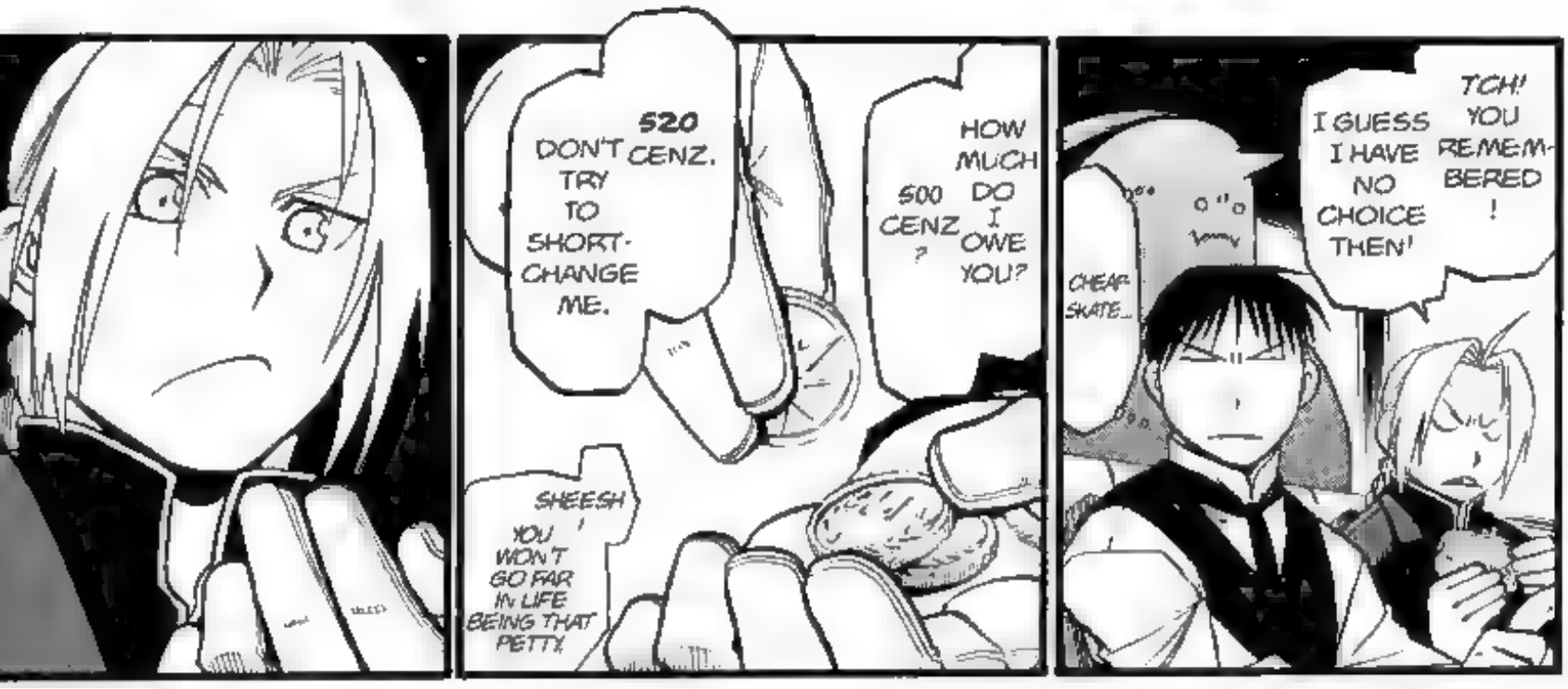
I'LL ASK AROUND IF I GET A CHANCE.

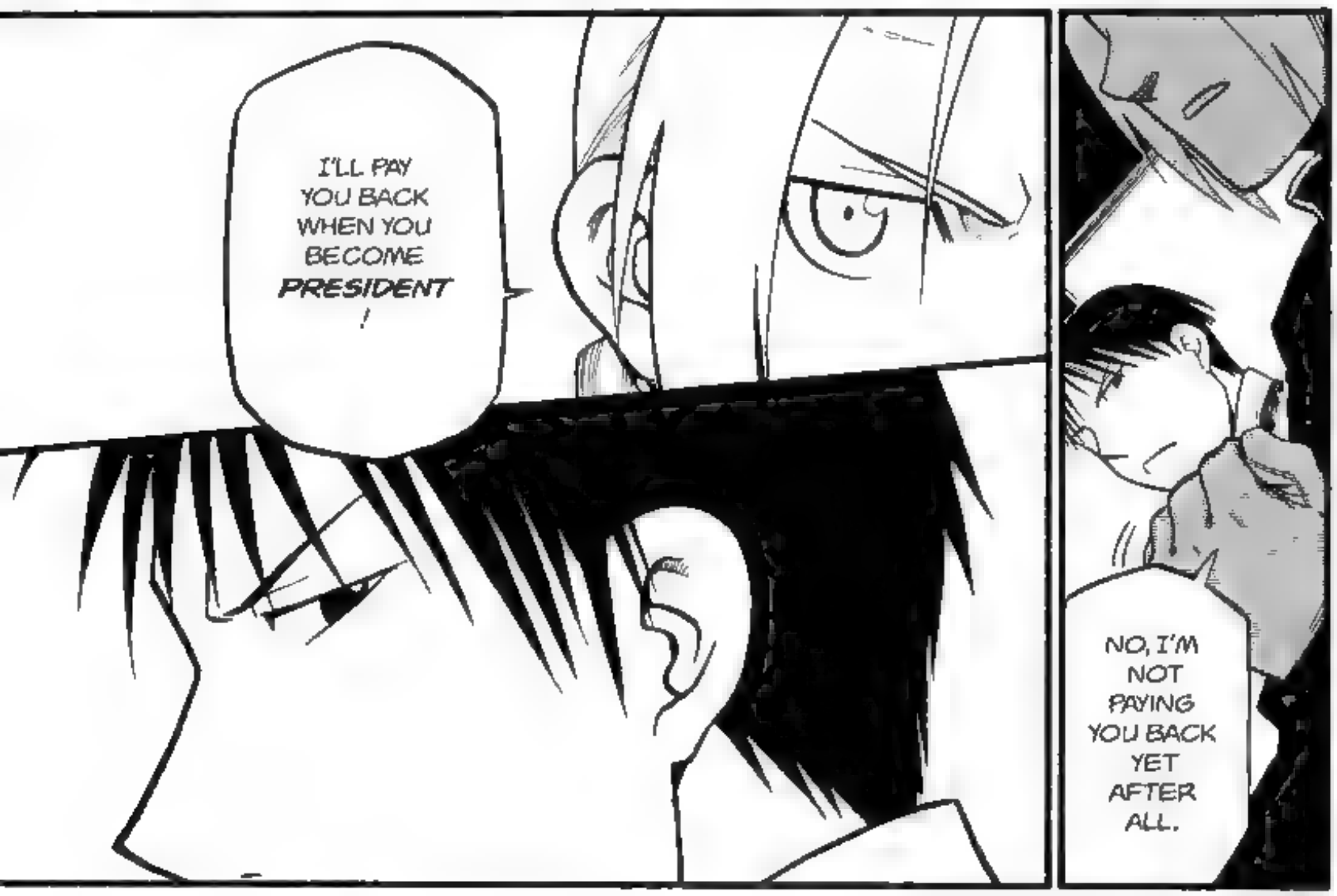
IF YOU FIND THE GIRL WITH THAT CAT, LET ME KNOW.

CHIMPH

HAND OVER THE MONEY YOU OWE ME.

I LENT YOU SOME CHANGE WHEN WE WERE IN THE PRESIDENTIAL DISTRICT.


520 CENZ. DON'T TRY TO SHORT-CHANGE ME.
SHEESH! YOU WON'T GO FAR IN LIFE BEING THAT PETTY.
HOW MUCH DO I OWE YOU?
500 CENZ?
TCH! I GUESS I HAVE NO CHOICE THEN! YOU REMEMBERED!
CHEAPSKATE...



Chapter 63
The Promise Made for 520 Cenz

LT. HAWK-EYE.

WHO TOLD YOU ABOUT THAT?

RESTAURAN

...

SHE TOLD ME ABOUT *ISHBAL* TOO.

HUH ?

FULL-METAL.

BUT ONE DAY YOU ***WILL*** PAY ME BACK.

I'LL LEND YOU THE MONEY FOR A LITTLE WHILE LONGER.

AND YOU WON'T GET THAT MONEY BACK TILL THIS COUNTRY ***BECOMES A DEMOCRACY.***

WHEN THAT TIME COMES, I'LL BE SURE TO BORROW SOME MORE.

HOTEL

SKETCH

IN OTHER WORDS, YOU'RE NOT LETTING ME OFF THE HOOK FOR A VERY LONG TIME.

WHEN I RETURN ***THAT***, I'LL BORROW SOME MORE AND MAKE YOU PROMISE ME ***SOMETHING ELSE.***

THANKS FOR THE RIDE.

UH HUH. SEE YOU LATER.

AND YOU BETTER NOT WORRY THE LIEUTENANT.

THAT'S RIGHT

OH, ROY! YOU'RE LATE

SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING, MADELINE.

SKREE

VROOOM...

O°O

SLAM

VROOOOM...

HA HA HA HA

DON'T BE SILLY, DARLING. I'M NOT ***CLEVER*** ENOUGH TO TWO-TIME YOU.

BE HONEST. YOU'RE LATE BECAUSE YOU WERE WITH SOME ***OTHER*** GIRL, AREN'T YOU?

SQUEAL

SQUEAL

ME NEI-THER !

KREEE

THAT'S THE KIND OF GROWNUP I DON'T EVER WANT TO GROW UP TO BE!

JEEZ!! WHAT A LOW THING FOR THE COLONEL TO DO— ESPECIALLY AT A TIME LIKE THIS!!

HOTEL

...HE WAS TALKING ABOUT A *DATE* !?!

WHEN HE SAID HE HAD SOME "BUSI-NESS" TO ATTEND TO...

OLD MAN FOO !?

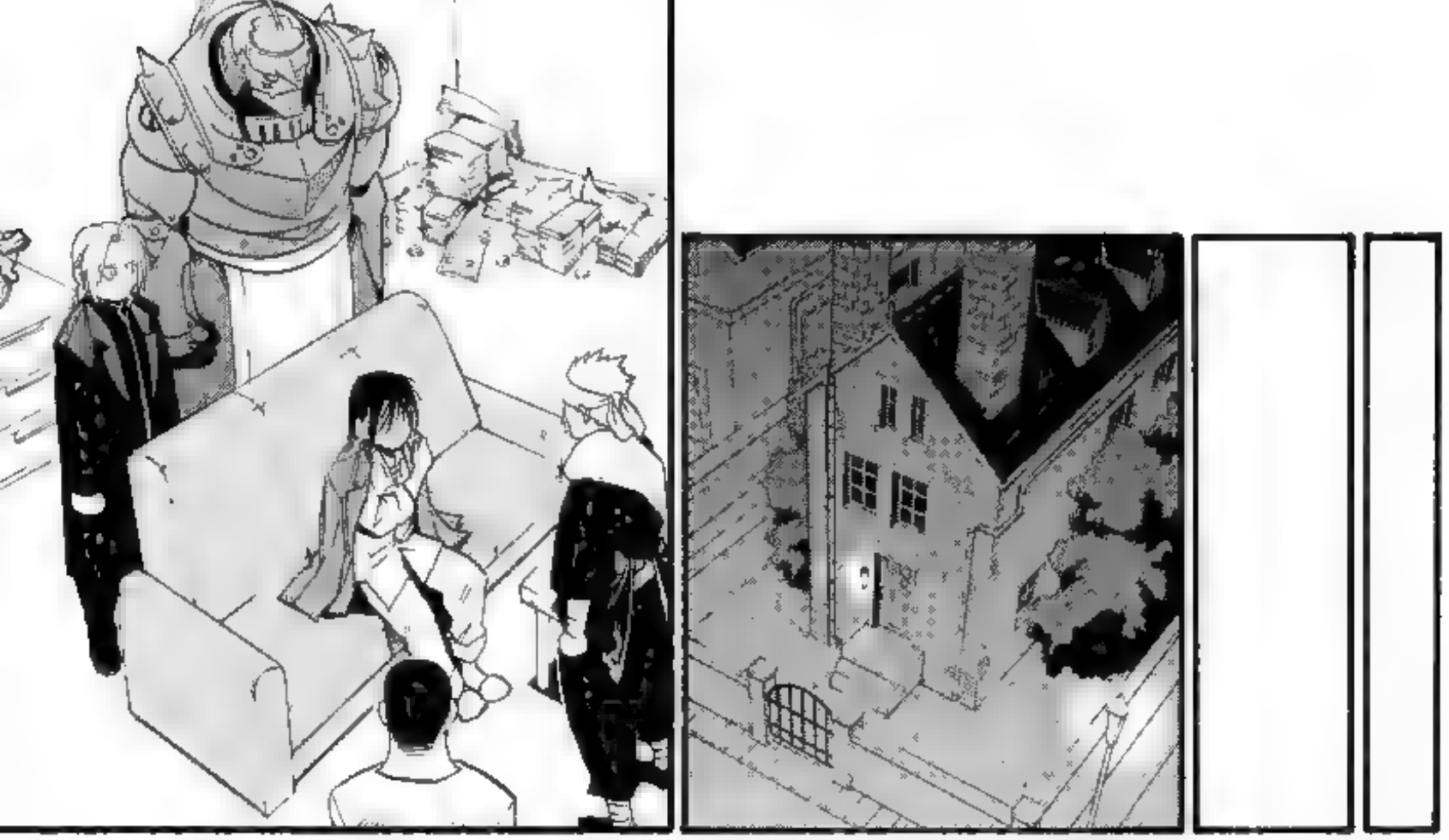
I WAS GETTING TIRED OF WAITING.

GLINT

YOU'RE HOME LATE.

WAAAH!!

HUH...



YOU LOST YOUR ARM...
...YOU FAILED TO PROTECT THE PRINCE...
...AND NOW YOU WALLOW IN SELF-PITY BECAUSE YOU'RE A CRIPPLE?

SLAP!

!!

IF WE WEREN'T IN A PLACE OF HIDING, I WOULD BERATE YOU FOR A FULL HOUR!!

HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING !?!

YOU DARE CALL YOURSELF A MEMBER OF THE YAO FAMILY'S CHOSEN CLAN!?!

SHE'S IN-JURED !

THAT'S ENOUGH, OLD MAN!

I'M SORRY, GRANDFATHER.

I'M SORRY.

YOU LOST...

...YOUR ARM.

YOUR ARM...

YOU FOOL!!

...YOU FOOL.

AUTO-MAIL ?

UH HUH.

I KNOW AN AUTO-MAIL MAINTENANCE ENGINEER, NAMED WINRY ROCKBELL.

I PROMISED LANFAN...

...THAT I WOULD INTRODUCE HER TO AN AUTO-MAIL ENGINEER.

BUT A NEW PROBLEM HAS ARISEN

WHAT ?

SHE DOES GOOD WORK AND I CAN CONVINCE HER TO GIVE YOU A DISCOUNT.

YOU CAN ALSO COUNT ON HER TO KEEP A SECRET, GIVEN YOUR... SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

WHAT ABOUT GRANNY ?

THAT'S RIGHT! RESEMBOOL IS SO FAR OUT IN THE COUNTRYSIDE, NO ONE WOULD NOTICE.

WINRY IS BEING ***WATCHED*** BY THE HOMUNCULI.

HM...

NOW THAT KING BRADLEY HAS SEEN LANFAN'S FACE, IT WOULDN'T BE GOOD FOR THE TWO OF THEM TO MEET.

I MUST DE-CLINE.

WHY? SHE GUARAN-TEES HER WORK!

SHE'S AN ENGINEER FROM MY HOME TOWN.

WINRY'S GRAND-MA.

GRANNY ?

...AND THAT YOU RESPECT AND TRUST THIS ROCKBELL ENGINEER...

I KNOW YOU ARE TRYING TO HELP US...

BUT WE CAN'T JUST ABAN-DON YOU...

WE CANNOT ACCEPT ANY MORE OF YOUR HELP.

WE WILL FIND AN AUTO-MAIL ENGINEER ON OUR OWN SOME-HOW.

BUT THAT'S EXACTLY WHY WE CANNOT ACCEPT YOUR OFFER.

SOMETIMES IT IS NECESSARY TO DETACH FROM OUR EMOTIONS IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH OUR GOAL.

DO YOU UNDER-STAND, BOY?

IF WE ALLOW OUR ACTIONS TO BE DICTATED BY SYMPATHY, IT WILL LEAD US ALL TO RUIN!

SI-LENCE !

NOW THAT THE ENEMY HAS BEGUN TO TIGHTEN THEIR GRIP, WE MUST BE MORE CAREFUL THAN EVER.

I UNDER-STAND.

THANKS.

AND THIS GOOD DOCTOR GAVE US SHELTER.

ME!?

SORRY I COULDN'T HELP YOU MORE, FOO.

YOU'VE HELPED US GREATLY ALREADY.

YOU SAVED MY GRAND-DAUGHTER'S LIFE.

I AM IN YOUR DEBT.

I'M NO "GOOD DOCTOR" !!

COME, COME.

THANK YOU...

...DR. KNOX.

JU...

JUST GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE!

I'M NOT SO NICE THAT I'M GOING TO LET YOU STAY HERE FOREVER!

ELRIC BRATS— YOU TOO!

MAKE SURE NO ONE SEES YOU WHEN YOU LEAVE!

AND DON'T EVER EVEN COME ***NEAR*** MY HOUSE AGAIN!!

THE EMPEROR'S HEALTH SHOWS NO SIGN OF IMPROVEMENT.

ON THE CONTRARY—IT'S GETTING WORSE.

WE MUST FIND THE PRINCE QUICKLY SO THAT WE CAN TAKE HIM AND HIS SECRET TO IMMORTALITY BACK TO XING.

WE WILL RETURN.

LET'S GO, GRANDFATHER.

IF THE EMPEROR'S HEALTH IS FAILING, WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME.

AGREED.

DO NOT FORGET US...

...DENIZENS OF EVIL.

SILENCE

ME—A REAL DOCTOR AGAIN?

WHO AM I FOOL-ING?

STUB

"THANK YOU...

"...DR KNOX."

NOK NOK

KREE

TMP TMP

NOW, WHO COULD THAT BE?

THE ELRIC BRATS AGAIN?

OH...

...OH...

MOM AND I NEEDED TO RUN SOME ERRANDS NEAR HERE, SO...

HOW'VE YOU BEEN, HONEY?

GOOD EVENING, DAD.

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME.

YOUR JOB... ARE YOU STILL WORKING AS A PATHOLOGIST?

YEAH. JUST A LOT OF BODIES, AS USUAL...

AND YOU... DID YOU LOSE WEIGHT? YOU LOOK THIN.

YOU TOO. ARE YOU EATING PROPERLY?

I HOPE YOU'RE NOT WORKING TOO HARD.

...NOT BAD.

YOU'RE SO GROWN UP.

I DID TREAT A COUPLE OF PATIENTS THE OTHER DAY.

ACTUALLY...

...YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN YOUR ***DUTY*** AS A ***DOCTOR.***

I'M GLAD...

A GUY LIKE ME ACTUALLY TRYING TO ***SAVE*** LIVES.

PRETTY FUNNY, HUH?

THAT REMINDS ME, DAD— I'VE STARTED STUDYING MEDICINE!

WHAT!?

DAD, WHAT YOU DID IS ***UNFOR-GIVABLE.***

YOUR HANDS WILL NEVER BE CLEAN.

BUT I STILL WANT TO BE A DOCTOR.

AND I KNOW WHY YOU BECAME A FORENSICS SPECIALIST !

BUT... DO YOU KNOW WHAT I DID IN ISHBAL...?

YES !

BUT DOES THAT MEAN YOU SHOULD JUST ***RUN AWAY*** !?

YOU'RE ABLE TO SAVE LIVES AND YOU'RE JUST GOING TO ***THROW THAT AWAY***!?

NOT DOING ANY-THING IS THE ***MOST COWARDLY CHOICE OF ALL*** !!

NOW THAT YOU'VE ***REMEMBERED*** YOUR CALLING AS A DOCTOR, KEEP IT UP.

I WANT TO SAVE LIVES ***WITH*** YOU!

BECAUSE WE'RE A ***FAMILY.***

WHY ARE YOU... ...PUSH-ING ME SO HARD ?

I'LL PUT ON SOME COF-FEE.

I'M NOT PROM-ISING IT'LL TASTE GOOD, THOUGH.

COME IN FOR A MIN-UTE.

STUB-BORN FOOL

KLACK

I GUESS WE CAN TIDY UP WHILE HE MAKES COFFEE.

OH WELL...

GAR-BAGE EVERY-WHERE...

LOOK AT THIS DUMP

...DESERVES ENOUGH HAPPINESS TO DRINK COFFEE WITH HIS FAMILY... RIGHT?

EVEN A GUY LIKE ME...

GOD, IF YOU DO EXIST...

...CUT ME SOME SLACK.

CHATTER CHATTER tWeeee

GATE

EXPRESS TRAIN TO NEW OPTAIN DEPARTING FROM PLATFORM 1.

EAST CITY STATION... EAST CITY STATION...

EAST CITY

117

IS HE STILL ON THE LOOSE?

PASS IT AROUND. HERE'S THE LATEST REPORT ON SCAR.

tup tup

tup tup

THEY SAY HE'S TRAVELING WITH A DARK-HAIRED, MIDDLE-AGED MAN.

HE'S BEEN SIGHTED IN THE NORTHERN REGION.

EEEK!

BUMP!

ARE YOU A FOREIGNER?

YOU HAVE AN ACCENT.

BISCUIT

I'M FROM XING.

NO, IT'S I WHO SHOULD BE SORRY. I WASN'T WATCHING WHERE I WAS GOING

OH DEAR, OH DEAR! I'M SO SORRY!

...DEPARTING FROM PLATFORM 3...

AFTER THIS I'M HEADING NORTH-

OH NO!! I BETTER GO!!

ST CITY

TICKET WAITING EAST GATE

ACTUALLY...

I ONLY CAME TO EAST CITY TO CATCH A TRAIN.

I HATE TO SAY IT, BUT THERE AREN'T MANY SITES OF INTEREST HERE IN EAST CITY, ARE THERE?

MY, MY! YOU CAME ALL THAT WAY JUST TO SIGHT-SEE?

WHAT AN UNUSUAL CAT.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING ME PICK UP MY THINGS, MA'AM!

YES, YES, TAKE CARE.

HMM

HMM DMM

CENTRAL PRISO

KLAK

POK

KLAK

KLAK

KLAK

KLAK

KLAK

OH.

YOU'RE BEING RE-LEASED.

GET OUT, KIMBLEE.

gulp

KLAK

KLAK

KLAK

SHUT UP.

AN ORDER FROM HIGH COM-MAND?

HOW DID THIS COME ABOUT?

KLAK

KLAK

NO QUES-TIONS.

GACHAK

I HEARD YOU WERE *LAUGHING* THE WHOLE TIME WHILE YOU BLEW UP THOSE ISHBALANS.

DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH, YOU PSYCHO!

I'M SURE THEY JUST TUNED INTO MY *NATURAL GOOD-NESS.*

NOT AT ALL.

YOU MUST HAVE SOME FRIENDS IN HIGH PLACES.

WHAT I DON'T GET IS WHY THEY DIDN'T *EXECUTE* YOU AFTER YOU KILLED FIVE SUPERIOR OFFICERS!

KLAK

KLAK

KLAK

WHAT ARE THE HIGHER-UPS THINKING, RELEASING A NUTJOB LIKE YOU?

Peh!

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR KINDNESS.

WHAT?

WARDEN.

BZ

ASH!

!?

DON'T COME BACK.

ALLOW ME TO REPAY YOU.

TIC
TIC
TIC
WHAT THE-!?
IT...
IT WON'T COME OFF !!
YANK
YANK
TIC
TIC
AAAAAAH!!!
TIC
TIC
AL-MOST OUT OF...
...TIME...
CLICK
TIC
T...
TAKE THIS THING OFF !!
KIM-BLEE !!

PEEP!

JUST A TOY, MY DEAR WARDEN.

A GIFT FOR YOUR CHILDREN.

BOING

BOING

BOING

KALAANG

C'MERE C'MERE

AND NOW...

VROOSH

CONGRAT-ULATIONS ON YOUR RELEASE.

VRM VRM

VRM

LONG TIME NO SEE, KIMBLEE.

YUP.

WE NEEDED SOME EXTRA HELP.

SO I HAVE ***YOUR PEOPLE*** TO THANK.

DO YOU REMEMBER DR. MARCOH?

THE SCIENTIST WHO CREATED THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE?

HOW COULD I FORGET?

I SEE... SO YOU'VE GOT A ***JOB*** FOR ME THEN?

WE DON'T KNOW FOR SURE YET.

YOU "THINK"?

HE'S ***ESCAPED.***

...WE THINK.

BUT THERE'S A STRONG POSSIBILITY THAT HE ESCAPED WITH AN ***ISHBALAN*** NAMED ***SCAR.***

THE INFAMOUS RED LOTUS ALCHEMIST, HAND-PICKED TO CARRY OUT THE "EXTERMINATION OF ISHBAL," ***MISSED*** ONE.

MUST BE QUITE A BLOW TO THE OLD EGO, EH, KIMBLEE?

SCAR'S BEEN GETTING IN OUR WAY A ***LOT*** LATELY.

IT'S INEXCUSABLE THAT MY ***SYMPHONY OF DESTRUCTION*** IS INCOMPLETE.

YOU'RE RIGHT

...

YOU DIDN'T LET ME OUT JUST TO PERFORM THIS LITTLE TASK, DID YOU?

AS FOR MARCOH, IF HE DID, IN FACT, ESCAPE WITH SCAR—BRING HIM BACK ALIVE.

NOTES AND ALL THE MONEY YOU'LL NEED FOR EXPENSES ARE IN THERE.

SO MY JOB IS TO ELIMINATE THIS SCAR?

UH HUH.

KILL THE BASTARD ON SIGHT.

ONCE YOU HAUL MARCOH IN, WE'VE GOT TO REMIND HIM WHO HE'S DEALING WITH. WE'LL WIPE HIS PRECIOUS LITTLE TOWN RIGHT OFF THE MAP.

GRIN

HOW CRUEL.

..RED LOTUS ?

NOW, DOESN'T THAT SOUND LIKE FUN..

BEH

GURP

THAT MIGHT NOT BE ENOUGH TO WIPE OUT AN ENTIRE TOWN. TIME TO *UPGRADE*.

I CAN FINALLY USE THIS AGAIN.

DID YOU USE ISHBALANS AGAIN?

THIS STONE..

NAH. *THIS* BABY'S MADE OUT OF THE LIVES OF THE RESEARCHERS WHO HELPED MAKE THE FIRST ONE.

YOU REALLY *ARE* CRUEL.

DR. MARCOH'S SUBORD-INATES?

Moss-Hughes

KLANG

KLANG

KLANG

KLANG

YEAH.

APPEARS SO.

IS THAT A FU-NERAL ?

SHF

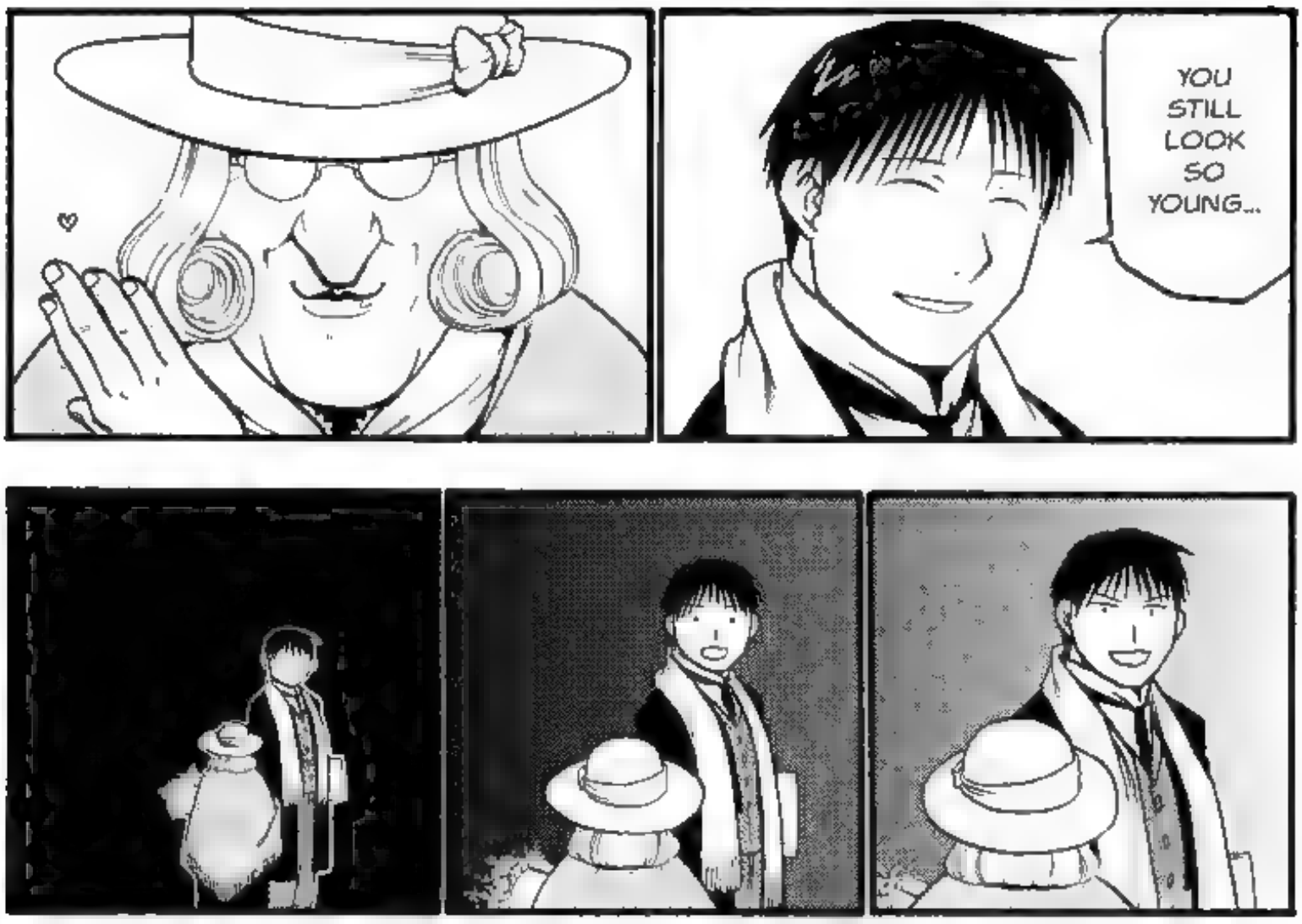
KLANG

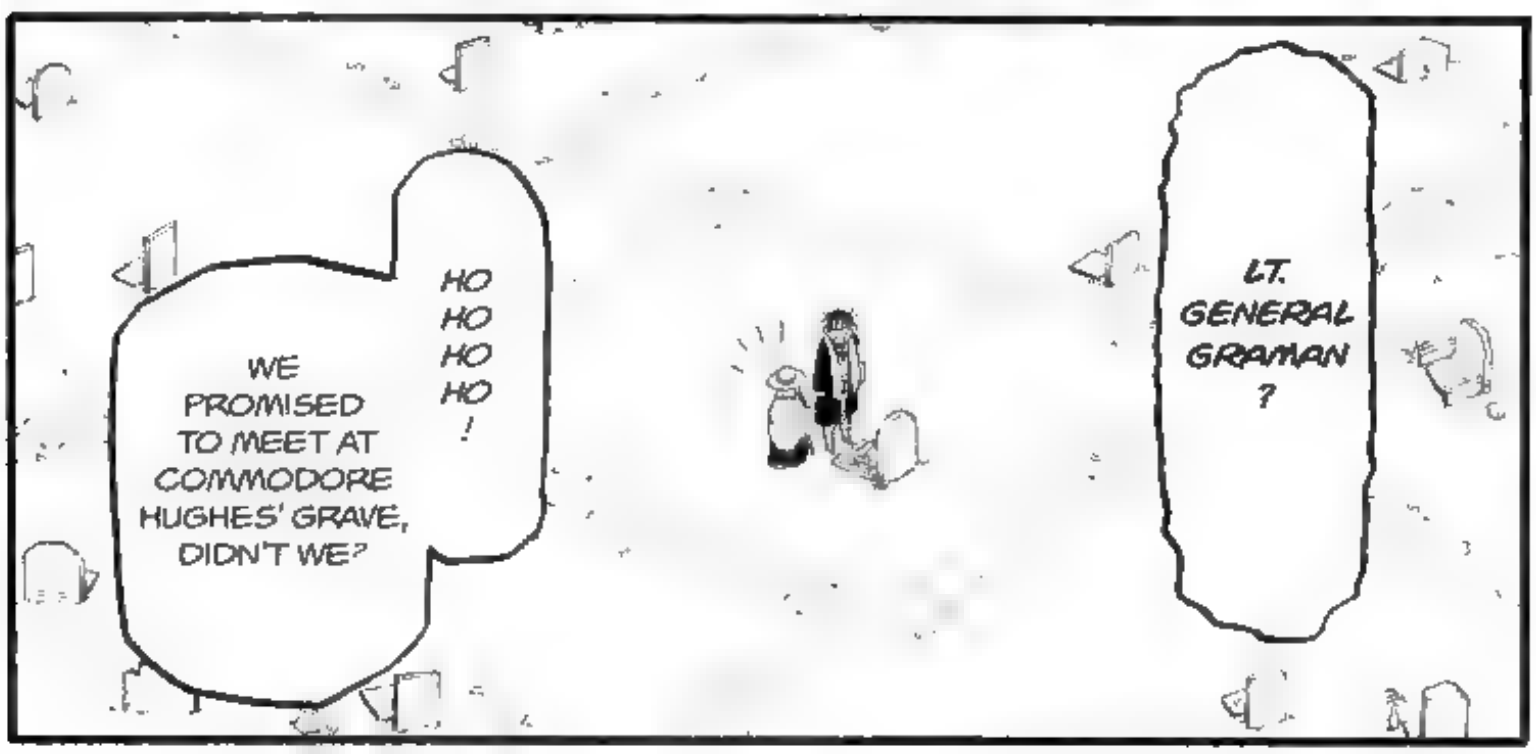
SHF SHF

HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT, MADAM ?

AT MY AGE, I CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER WHEN IT WILL BE MY TURN.

IT MAKES ME SAD.


YOU STILL LOOK SO YOUNG...


HO HO HO HO !
WE PROMISED TO MEET AT COMMODORE HUGHES' GRAVE, DIDN'T WE?
LT. GENERAL GRAHAM ?

...SO I TOOK EXTRA PRECAUTIONS AND CAME IN DISGUISE.
HO HO HO
I REALIZED IT MUST BE AN EMERGENCY WHEN YOU CONTACTED ME— YOUR LAST RESORT...

HMPH!

I'LL TAKE THAT AS A COMPLIMENT.

PST

I COULD NEVER HAVE FORESEEN *THAT* DISGUISE, SIR.

PST

HEH HEH HEH

PST

I CAN SEE HOW YOU GOT YOUR REPUTATION FOR *ECCENTRICITY*, LT. GENERAL GRAMAN.

PST

YES, SIR. I COMPLETELY AGREE.

IT DEFEATS THE PURPOSE SOMEWHAT IF YOU LOSE *ALL* YOUR LOYAL SUBORDINATES.

I'M IMPRESSED YOU WERE ABLE TO COLLECT THIS MUCH INFORMATION.

BUT YOU'RE BEING A BIT HASTY.

I SEE... SO THE ENTIRE CENTRAL CITY HIGH COMMAND IS CORRUPT.

YEARS AGO...

..WHEN I WAS STILL IN CENTRAL...

...RAVEN ASKED ME AN ODD QUESTION.

HMM... GENERAL RAVEN, TOO?

"WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN AN INVINCIBLE ARMY OF IMMORTAL SOLDIERS?"

"HEY, GRAMAN," HE SAID.

I FLAT OUT REJECTED HIM. I TOLD HIM, "IMMORTALITY IS POINTLESS."

AND WHAT WAS YOUR REPLY, SIR?

"IMMORTAL"...?

SPEAKING OF CONFUSION...

DO YOU REMEMBER THE RIOTS IN REOLE, SIR?

AFTER THAT, I WAS NEVER CALLED BACK TO CENTRAL CITY. I'VE BEEN DEALING WITH ALL THE CHAOS AND CONFUSION IN THE EASTERN REGION EVER SINCE.

YOU WERE *DEMOTED*!?

AND SHORTLY AFTER THAT...

...I WAS TRANSFERRED TO EASTERN HEADQUARTERS.

THE INCIDENT IN WHICH THE FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST EXPOSED THE SCHEMES OF THE FOUNDER OF THE LETO RELIGION.

YES, I REMEMBER.

YES, SIR.

AND IT WAS AFTER CENTRAL TROOPS ENTERED REOLE THAT UNREST WITHIN THE CITY RAPIDLY MULTIPLIED.

BUT THE QUESTION IS...

...WHY, WHEN THINGS WERE GOING SO WELL, DID MILITARY COMMAND ORDER THE ***EASTERN TROOPS*** TO STAND DOWN AND SEND IN ***CENTRAL TROOPS*** TO TAKE OVER THE OPERATION?

THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED, RIGHT?

FULLMETAL CONTACTED EASTERN HQ AS SOON AS HE DISCOVERED HIGH PRIEST CORNELLO'S PLOT.

THOSE FELLOWS IN CENTRAL CITY MUST BE PLOTTING SOMETHING...

THAT'S A GOOD ONE, SIR.

DAGNABBIT! WHY CAN'T THEY STAY QUIET UNTIL AFTER MY RETIREMENT?

HA HA HA

THE RIOT WAS STILL IN ITS INITIAL STAGES, SO THE EASTERN TROOPS WERE ABLE TO MOBILIZE QUICKLY AND SUPPRESS IT.

AFTER ALL, SIR, YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF ***LOYAL*** SOLDIERS UNDER YOUR COMMAND— MANY OF WHOM ARE SEASONED, COMBAT-READY VETERANS OF THE ISHBALAN CIVIL WAR.

LT. GENERAL GRAMAN, A RESPECTED OFFICER LIKE YOURSELF COULD NEVER BE SATISFIED PEACEFULLY WHILING AWAY YOUR DAYS IN THE BOONDOCKS OF EASTERN HQ. AM I RIGHT, SIR?

HA HA HA HA HA !!

HA HA HA HA HA HA!

...HEH...

...BUT I NEVER IMAGINED THAT YOU'D CALL ME HERE TO ***INCITE ME TO ACTION*** !!

I KNEW THAT ONE DAY YOU'D COME CRYING TO ME— THAT'S WHY I HID THE NUMBER TO MY SECRET PHONE LINE INSIDE THE CHESS PIECE...

HEH HEH

...YOU'VE GOT THIS OLD GEEZER'S FLAMES OF AMBITION BURNING BRIGHTER THAN EVER!

HEH HEH WELL, WELL, WELL...

JUST WHEN I THOUGHT MY YOUTHFUL AMBITION HAD DIED OUT...

IF YOU GET *TOO* EXCITED, YOU'LL RUIN YOUR MAKEUP..

...MA-DAM."

I'M SORRY. THANK YOU FOR THE OFFER, BUT...

...HM?

OH NO!

TEE HEE.

HA HA HA.

ARE YOU FREE AFTER THIS? MAYBE WE CAN GO OUT FOR TEA?

HMM...
?

HMM-
MMM...

MMM...

HMM...

HMMM...

IT'S
USE-
LESS
!!

FWAp

NOPE
!!

I THOUGHT CENTRAL CITY NATIONAL LIBRARY WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE THE LARGEST COLLECTION OF BOOKS IN THE COUNTRY!?

WHY ARE THERE SO FEW BOOKS WITH ANYTHING ABOUT THE PURIFICATION ARTS!?

EEP!

I GUESS I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO GO TO THE SOURCE... WE'LL HAVE TO TRAVEL TO XING.

GRUMBLE GRUMBLE

BUT IT WOULD BE **SUICIDE** TO TRY AND CROSS THAT DESERT WITH MY AUTO-MAIL...

M... MAJOR! WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?

SHH !!

YOU MUST BE ***QUIET*** INSIDE THE LIBRARY !

THERE YOU ARE, EDWARD ELRIC!

BA-DUM BA-DUM BA-DUM

HUMPH !

SHOOOVE

THE GIRL...

...IS APPARENTLY HEADING *NORTH.*

COLONEL MUSTANG TOLD ME.

I'M ACTING AS HIS MESSENGER TODAY.

I HEAR YOU'RE LOOKING FOR THE YOUNG GIRL WITH THE BLACK-AND-WHITE CAT.

FSP FSP FSP

UH HUH.

...HOW DID YOU KNOW?

ACCORDING TO THE WITNESS, SHE WAS HEADING NORTH THROUGH EAST CITY STATION.

WHO KNOWS?

WHERE IN THE NORTH!?

THANKS, MAJOR! THANK THE COLONEL FOR ME TOO!

WAIT, WAIT! NOT SO HASTY.

NORTH, HUH? ALL RIGHT!

EAST AND THEN NORTH...

THAT'S ALL I NEED TO KNOW. I'M ON MY WAY!!

TAKE THIS WITH YOU.

THERE'S A REASON WHY COLONEL MUSTANG CHOSE *ME* TO MEET YOU.

THIS PER-SON..

THIS COULD SAVE YOUR SKIN UP THERE, SO DON'T LOSE IT!

WHAT IS IT?

A LETTER OF INTRO-DUCTION.

WHO..?

..MIGHT BE ABLE TO AID YOU IN YOUR SEARCH.

FAR TO THE NORTH, BEYOND NORTHERN HQ..

...A GENERAL KNOWN AS "THE NORTHERN WALL OF BRIGGS" PROTECTS THE BORDER WE SHARE WITH DRACHMA—

...MAJOR GENERAL ARMSTRONG.

FWIP FWIP FWIP

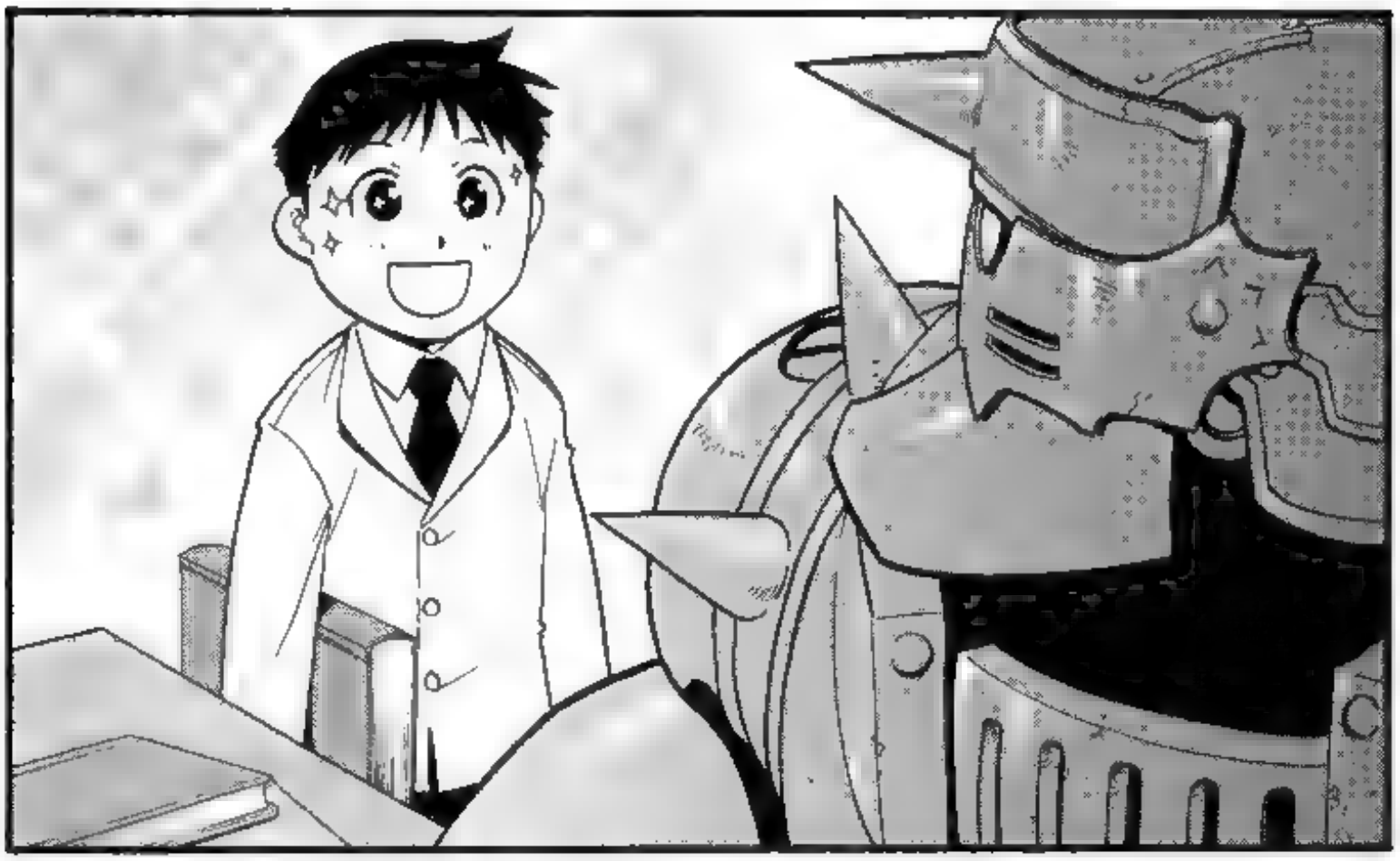
HMMM...

I'VE SEARCHED EVERYWHERE, BUT I STILL CAN'T FIND A ***SINGLE*** DESCRIPTION OF THE PURIFICATION ARTS.

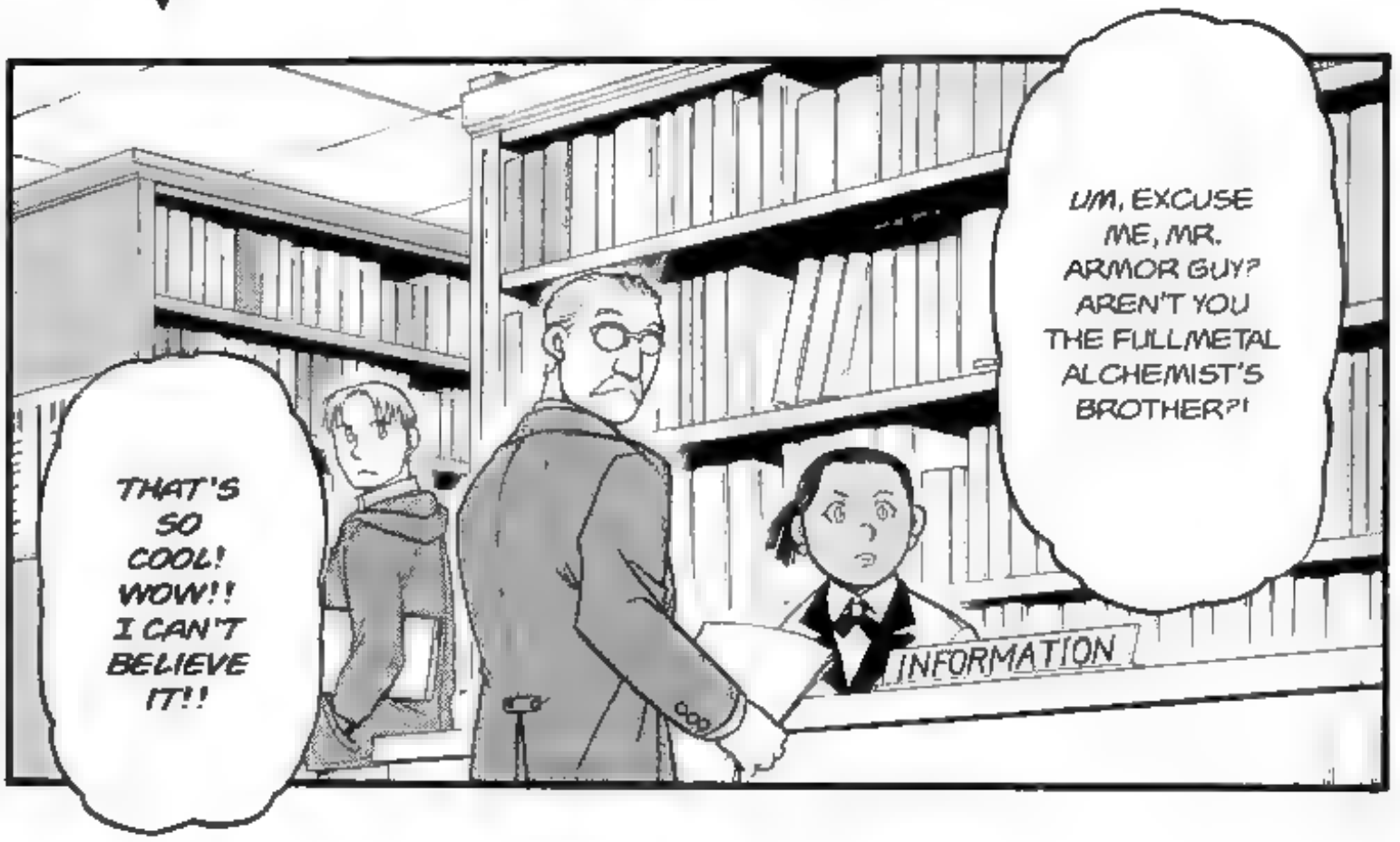
LIN SAID IT'S A TECHNIQUE SPECIALIZING IN MEDICINE. I WONDER HOW IT WORKS?

I WISH I COULD DO THAT. WHY DIDN'T I ASK HER ABOUT IT WHEN... ...I HAD THE CHANCE AT DR. KNOX'S?!

PURIFI- MAY'S CATION LONG ARTS, RANGE HUH? ALCHEMY WAS AMAZ- ING.



Chapter 64
The Northern Wall of Briggs



WHAT ARE YOU RESEARCHING?

THE PURIFICATION ARTS. IT'S A TYPE OF ALCHEMY FROM XING.

HI.

I WONDER WHOSE KID THIS IS?

YOU REALLY ***ARE*** A SUIT OF ARMOR !!

AWESOME !!

WHY BOTHER LEARNING ABOUT SOME ***MINOR*** ALCHEMY FROM ANOTHER COUNTRY?

BUT YOU AND YOUR BROTHER ARE TWO OF THE ***TOP ALCHEMISTS*** IN AMESTRIS, AND ***WE*** HAVE THE BEST ALCHEMY IN THE WORLD!

HUH ?

HMM.

FROM XING, HUH?

UH...

I CAN'T TELL HIM THAT I'M TRYING TO GET MY ORIGINAL BODY BACK OR THAT WE'RE SEARCHING FOR A WAY TO FIGHT THE HOMUNCULI...

WOW! THE ELRIC BROTHERS ARE SO COOL- JUST LIKE EVERYONE SAYS!!

WE WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT IT TO SEE IF IT CAN BE USED TO SAVE LIVES.

I'VE HEARD THAT THE PURIFICATION ARTS ARE RELATED TO MEDICINE.

LOVE & PEACE

FOR WORLD PEACE !

HEY, AL!

TMPTMP

TMP

AL !

BIG BROTHER- YOU HAVE TO BE QUIET INSIDE A LIBRARY...

WAIT... GO? GO WHERE ?

WE'RE LEAVING !

PACK UP YOUR STUFF AT THE HOTEL !

GET READY !!

WE GOTTA GO !!

UH-HUH.

IF YOU'RE MR. ARMOR'S BIG BROTHER, THAT MEANS YOU'RE *EDWARD, THE FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST*, RIGHT?!

HUH? WHO'S THE KID?

I'LL EXPLAIN LATER..

YOU REALLY ARE A TINY ALCHEMIST, JUST LIKE EVERYONE SAYS!!

WOW!!

KACHAK

WOW! AND YOU REALLY DO LOSE IT WHEN SOMEONE CALLS YOU *"LITTLE"*!

YOU WANNA GO FLYING? I'LL SEND YOU ON A ONE-WAY TRIP TO NEPTUNE!

WHA-WHA-WHA?! LET'S HEAR YOU SAY THAT ONE MORE TIME!

STEP AWAY FROM MR. SELIM.

SELIM BRADLEY ?!

THE PRESI-DENT'S SON ?!

NO, NO! DON'T SHOOT HIM!

SE...

AD-MIRES ME ?!

DO YOU LIKE ALCHEMY, SELIM?

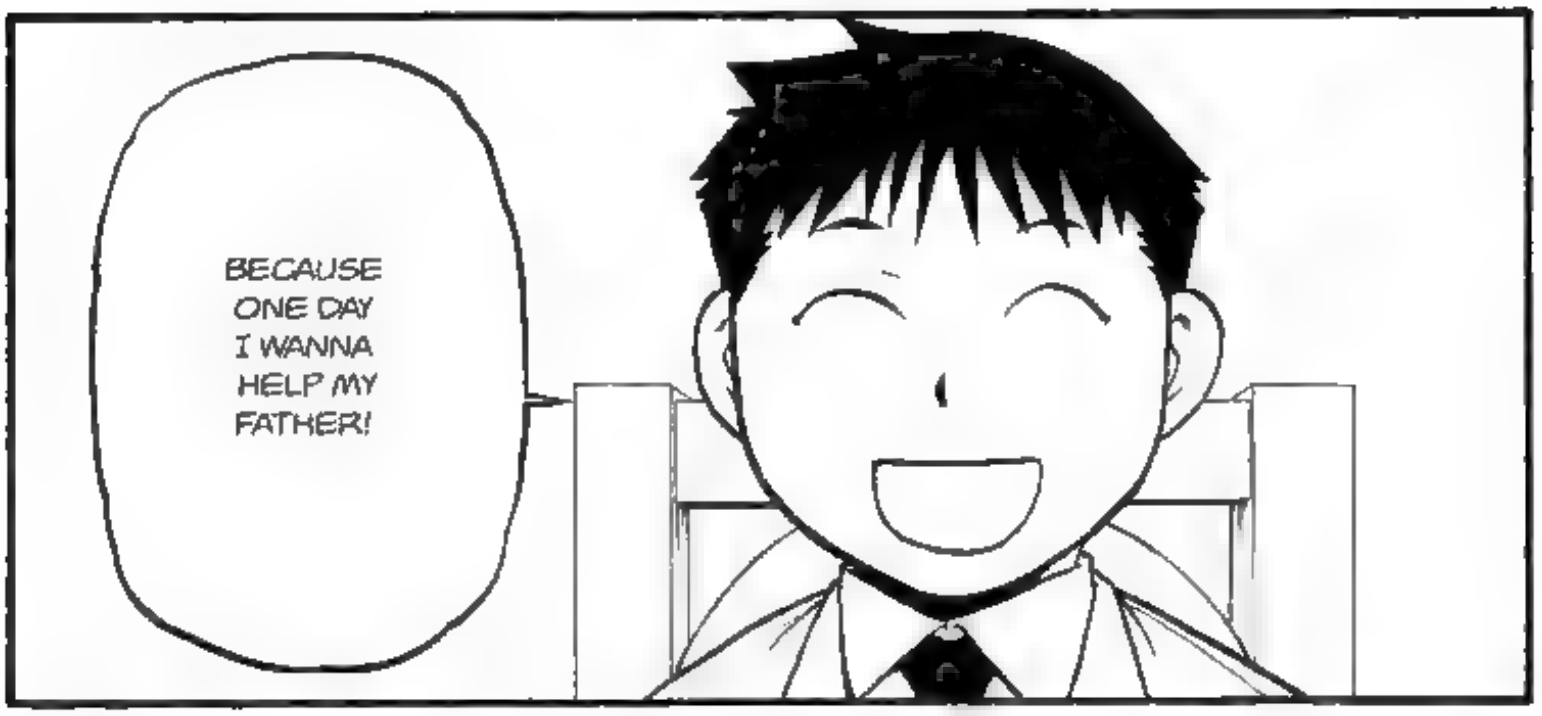
SORRY TO TROUBLE YOU. IT'S JUST THAT OUR LITTLE BOY ADMIRES YOU SO MUCH.

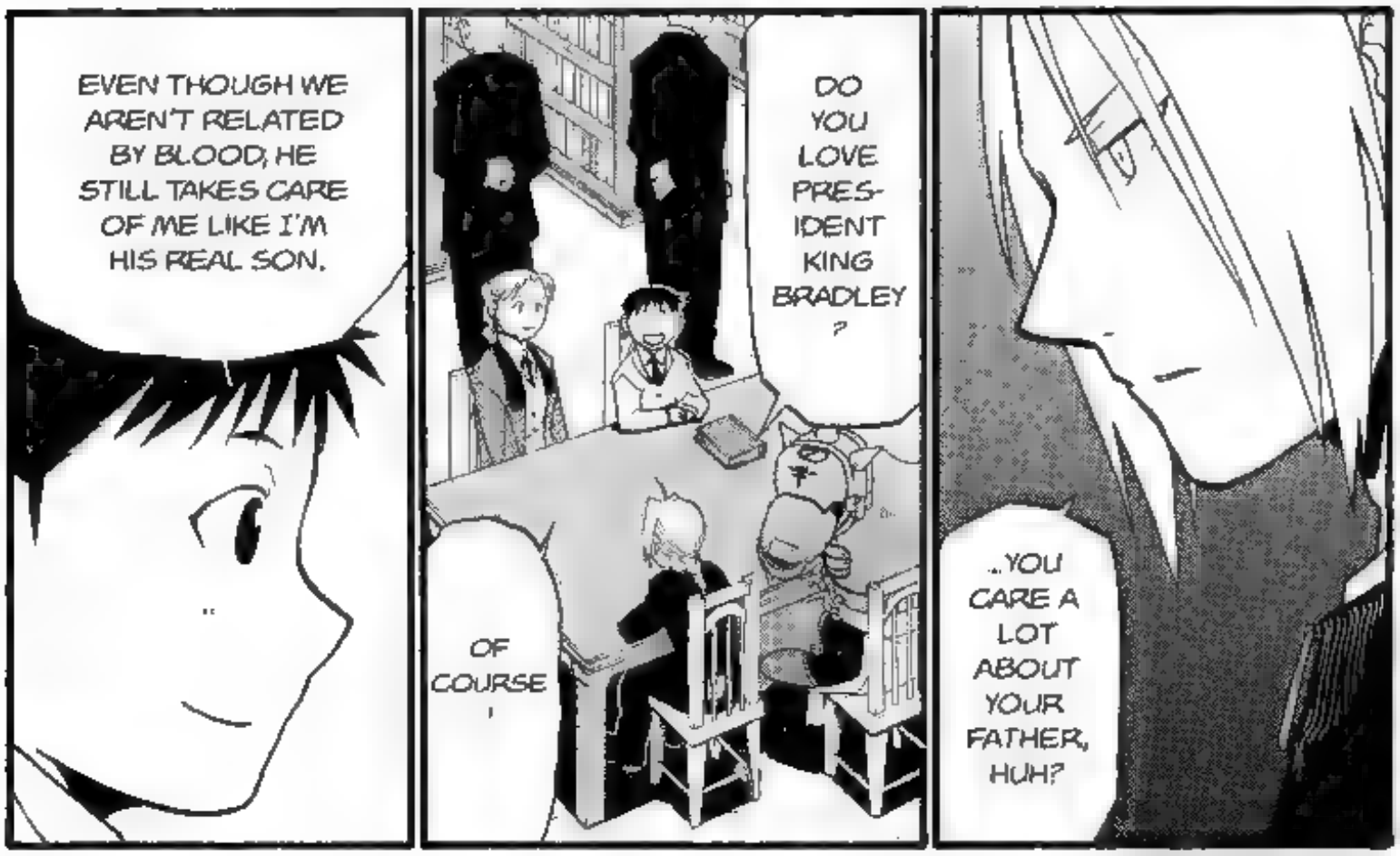
AD-MIRES ME ?

HMM ...

I'M GONNA STUDY ALCHEMY SO ONE DAY I CAN BECOME A STATE ALCHEMIST, JUST LIKE MR. EDWARD!

YES !


BECAUSE ONE DAY I WANNA HELP MY FATHER!


EVEN THOUGH WE AREN'T RELATED BY BLOOD, HE STILL TAKES CARE OF ME LIKE I'M HIS REAL SON.
..
DO YOU LOVE PRES-IDENT KING BRADLEY ?
OF COURSE !
..YOU CARE A LOT ABOUT YOUR FATHER, HUH?

THE KING AND I COULDN'T HAVE A CHILD OF OUR OWN, SO WE ADOPTED A DISTANT RELATIVE.

THAT'S HOW WE GOT SELIM.

HIS REAL SON...?

HE'S GROWN UP TO BE SUCH A GENTLE AND CARING BOY.

MY HUSBAND AND I TREASURE HIM.

MY HUSBAND HAS ALWAYS LIVED FOR HIS WORK.

HE CERTAINLY KNOWS HOW TO WORK HARD... UNFORTUNATELY, HE DOESN'T KNOW A THING ABOUT WOMEN.

SOMETIMES I WISH HE WOULD SLOW DOWN, THOUGH. HE'S NOT AS YOUNG AS HE USED TO BE.

HE'S AS ACTIVE AS EVER. I DON'T THINK HE PLANS ON RETIRING ANYTIME SOON.

NOT AT ALL.

ANY CHANGES IN HIS HEALTH? HE HASN'T FELT...SICK AT ALL, HAS HE?

HOW HAS THE PRESIDENT BEEN LATELY?

TEE HEE HEE! HEE HEE!

WHOOPS! OH MY! I DIDN'T MEAN TO TALK ABOUT MY ROMANTIC LIFE!

OUR FIRST DATE WAS INCRE-DIBLE...

THAT WAS HOW WE BEGAN DATING.

THE FIRST TIME WE MET, HE WAS SO RUDE I *SLAPPED* HIM!

!

VRMMM

YOU FINALLY GOT TO SPEAK TO EDWARD.

YOU MUST BE VERY HAPPY, SELIM.

SEE YOU SOON! I HOPE !

VROOM

WHEN I GET HOME, I'M GONNA TELL FATHER ALL ABOUT IT!

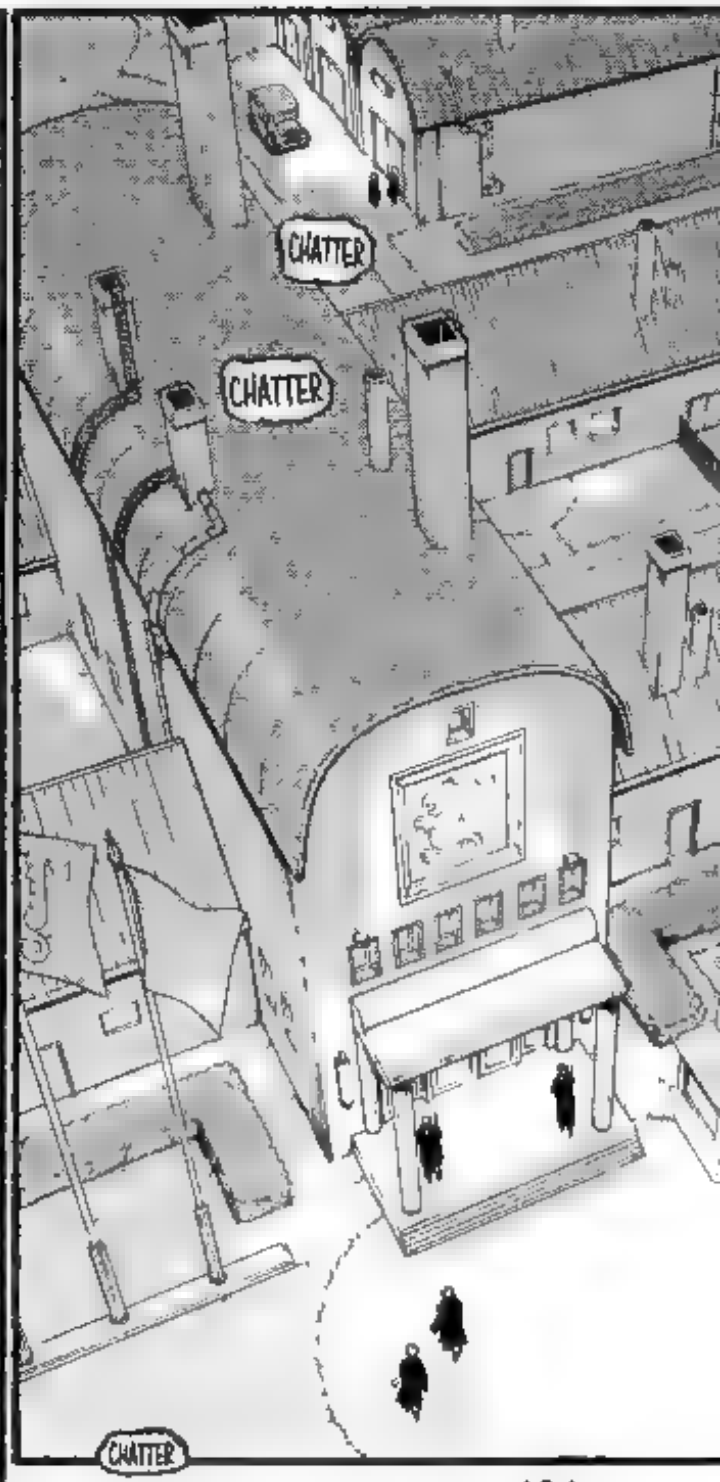
EITHER WAY, THEY HAVE IT HARD.

WHO KNOWS.

I WONDER IF THE PRESIDENT'S WIFE AND SON HAVE ANY IDEA THAT HE'S A HOMUN-CULUS?

WELCOME
NORTH CITY

CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER


CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER

WE'RE DOING EVERY-THING WE CAN.

I'M AFRAID NOT, SIR. I'M VERY SORRY!

DON'T TELL ME YOU ***STILL*** HAVEN'T LOCATED SCAR?

THE HIGHER-UPS IN CENTRAL SENT HIM. WE'RE SUPPOSED TO GIVE HIM OUR FULL COOPER-ATION.

SHH!

YOU WANNA GET US COURT-MAR-TIALED?

CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT GUY? WHO DOES HE THINK HE IS?

WHSP WHSP

MR. KIM-BLEE!

THEY SAY THIS GUY'S GOING TO KILL SCAR AND CAPTURE THE OTHER PERP', ALL BY HIMSELF.

WHY?!

DON'T THEY TRUST ANY OF US AT NORTHERN HQ TO HANDLE THIS SITUATION?

...JUST MO-MENTS AGO!

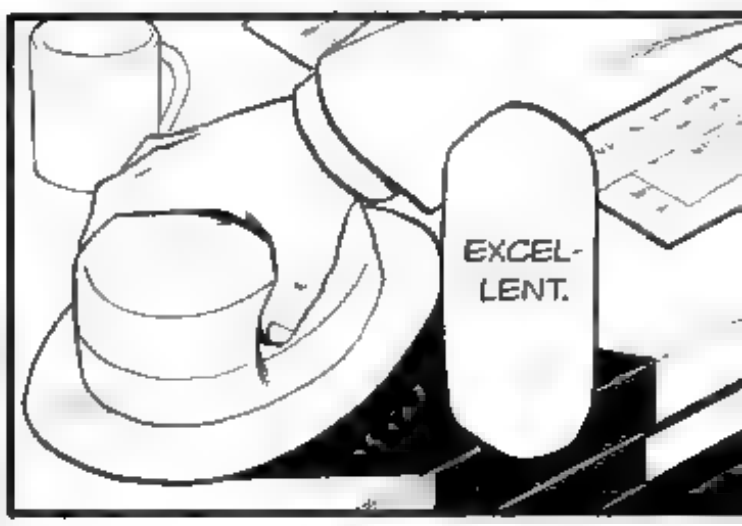
AN INDIVIDUAL BELIEVED TO BE SCAR HAS BEEN SIGHTED NEAR THE FREIGHT TRAIN TERMINAL IN NORTH CITY STATION...

TAKE THE CAR... TO NORTH CITY STATION, PRONTO!
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
SECURE THE PERIMETER OF THAT FREIGHT TERMINAL!

ONLY ONE PERSON WAS SIGHTED.
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER MAN?

THIS IS MY JOB.
DON'T INTERFERE.

THE DESCRIPTION FITS THE REPORT FROM CENTRAL HQ.
A MIDDLE-AGED MALE WITH BLACK HAIR.


EXCELLENT.

THERE HE IS!

OW!

GRAB

HURRY UP.

WHAT?!

BUT, SIR! HE'S RIGHT THERE! WHY CAN'T WE TAKE THE SHOT?!

HOLD YOUR FIRE. WE'RE JUST BACKUP.

AT THIS RANGE, I COULD TAKE HIM DOWN, SIR.

PST PST PST PST

EN-CIRCLE THE FRE GHT TRAIN TERM-INAL.

PST PST

WE DO EXACTLY WHAT KIMBLEE SAYS— NOTHING MORE!
WE'RE UNDER ORDERS FROM CENTRAL!

KIMBLEE, SIR! HE'S IN THE THIRD FREIGHT CAR.
PSP
PSP
THE BASTARD IS TRYING TO HITCH A FREE RIDE!
THAT MEANS IT'S HEADED TO BRIGGS.
KLATTA
KLATTA
HE'S ENTERING THE THIRD FREIGHT CAR.
2
3
THAT'S A MILITARY CAR.

SHF
SHF

DR. MARCOH, I PRESUME?

WHERE IS SCAR?

ARE YOU ALONE?

YOU CAN'T ESCAPE ME.

I'VE COME TO ESCORT YOU BACK.

!

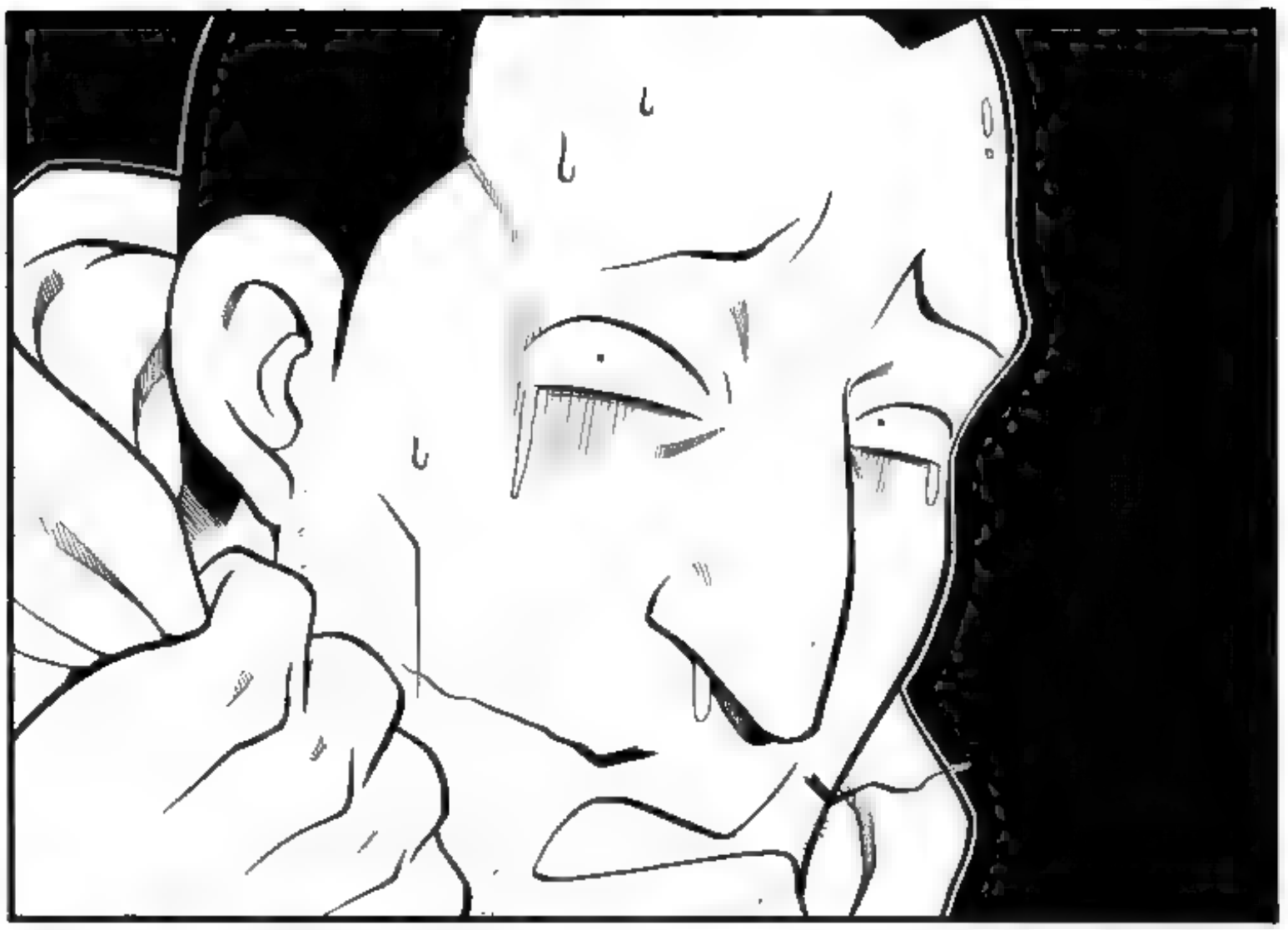
DASH

...DR. MAR-

DIDN'T I TELL YOU? YOU HAVE NO POSSI-BILITY OF ESCAPE.

GRAB

YOU NEED TO LEARN WHEN TO GIVE UP!



WHO
IS
THIS?

WHOO

THOK

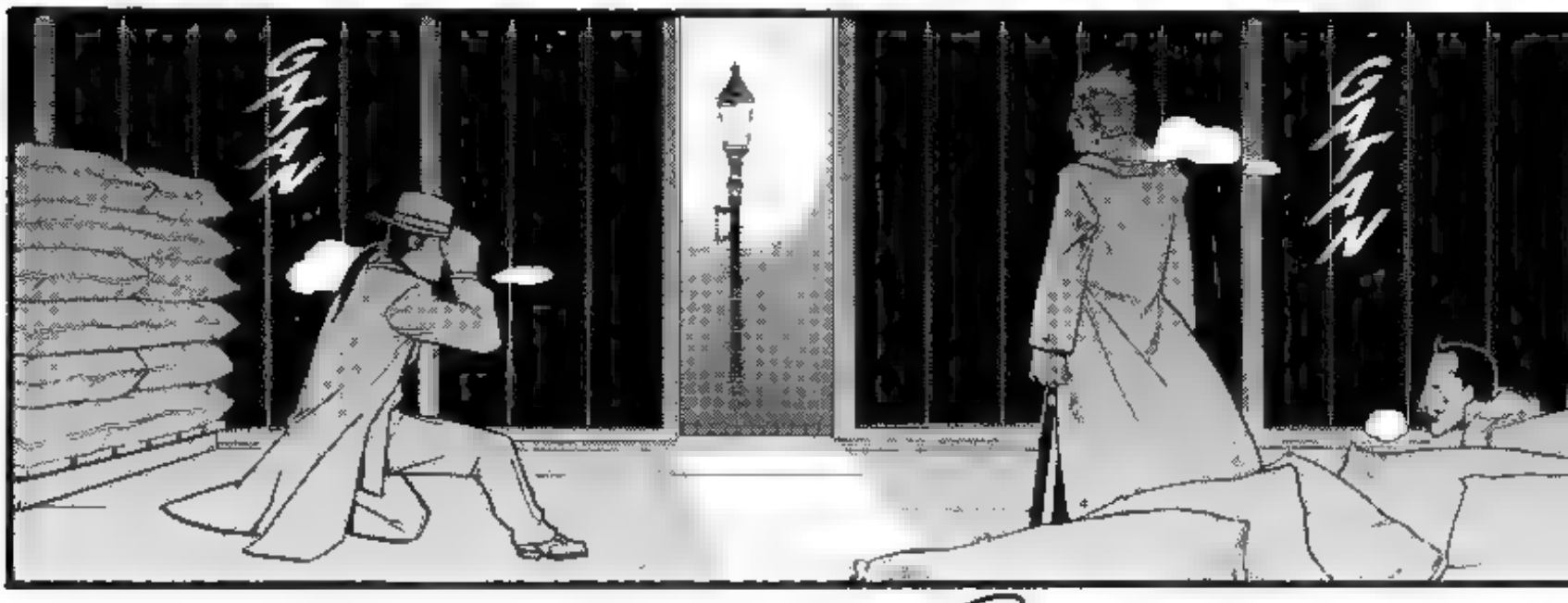
CHOOO

GACHNK

THMP THMP

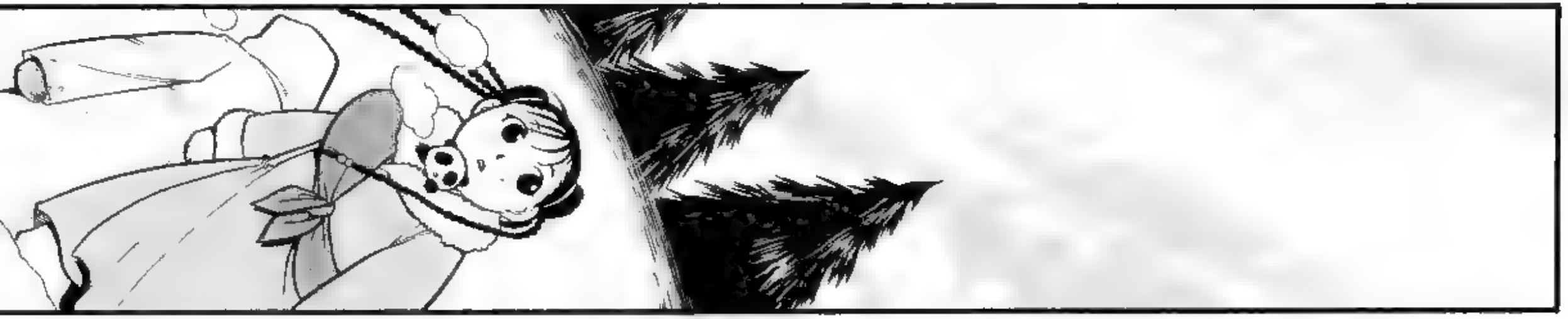
SO...

YOU'RE THE ISHBALAN I'VE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT.


GAAN
GAAN

GAAN
GAAN

NET
HO



I'M SURE THEY'RE FINE. MORE IMPORTANTLY, THEY'RE KEEPING THE MPS OCCUPIED.

OH...

CRNCH

CRNCH

CRNCH

DO YOU THINK MR. SCAR AND MR. YOKI ARE ALL RIGHT?

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, DR. MAR-COH ?

NNGH..

THE EXTRA PRECAUTION OF HEADING EAST BEFORE TURNING NORTH CAN'T HAVE HURT OUR PLAN EITHER.

THANKS TO THEM, NO ONE'S KEEPING AN EYE ON US.

THE NORTH WIND IS STINGING THE RAW SKIN ON MY FACE A BIT.

IT'S NO-THING.

THIS FACE SUITS ME WELL.

HA HA... THAT'S OKAY.

I WISH I COULD'VE MADE YOUR FACE MORE ATTRACTIVE WHEN I HEALED YOU.

I'M SORRY...

THAT'S THE BRIGGS MOUNTAIN RANGE.

MAY, LOOK OVER THERE.

THOSE MOUNTAINS ARE THE BORDER BETWEEN AMESTRIS AND THE NATION OF DRACHMA.

WOW...

WE'RE ALMOST THERE!

ARE WE CLOSE TO THE LOCATION SCAR SPECIFIED?

IT SEEMS WE'RE DEEP IN THE NORTHERN WILDERNESS NOW.

UM...

THIS MUST BE SCAR'S BROTHER'S RESEARCH...

HERE

WILL THIS TURN OUT TO BE THE BOOK OF *HOPE*...

...OR THE BOOK OF *DESPAIR*?

I WONDER IF THE PATH TO IMMORTALITY IS WRITTEN IN THESE PAGES?

SO THESE ARE HIS SECRET NOTES, FUSING THE ALCHEMY OF XING AND AMESTRIS!!

HMM... WE'LL SEE.

HOTEL

YES. YESTER-DAY.

REALLY? THEY LEFT THE HOTEL ALREADY?

I WANTED TO SEND AL SOME OF THIS GOOD POLISHING OIL THAT I FOUND...

DO YOU KNOW WHERE THEY WENT ?

TRONT

DID THEY SAY ANY-THING BEFORE THEY... ?

THEY DIDN'T INSTRUCT ME TO GIVE YOU ANY MESSAGES, MS. ROCKBELL.

WHY SO BLUE, DEARIE? ARE THE BOYS ALL RIGHT?

CLIK

THAT IDIOT...

NORTH ...?

I BELIEVE THEY RESERVED TRAIN TICKETS TO GO NORTH TO BRIGGS.

THEY'RE IN MORTAL DANGER.

HMM...

I GUESS ED WENT NORTH.

OH MY! BUT THEN...

GOT A COLD, BIG BRO-THER?

ACHOOO !!!

WHOA...

HERE WE ARE, FELLAS.

CLOP CLOP

BRRR... IT'S FREEZ-ING...

KLATU

KLATU

KLATU

HOW CAN PEOPLE STAND THIS COLD?

SHVR SHVR

UH-OH. LOOKS LIKE A STORM'S BREWING IN THE MOUNTAINS.

IF YOU'RE GONNA GO, YOU SHOULD LEAVE NOW.

KEEP GOING UP THIS ROAD AND YOU'LL HIT FORT BRIGGS.

YOU, THE BIG GUY!

YES?

OH... AND *YOU!*

OH!
I'M WEARING AUTO-MAIL.
NO, IT'S JUST ORDINARY ARMOR.
IS THAT AUTO-MAIL YOU'RE WEARING?
HUH?
IT'S ALL MILITARY PROPERTY BEYOND THIS FENCE.
HUH. WELL, YOU'D BETTER HURRY UP, THEN...
...UNLESS YOU WANT TO WIND UP *DEAD*.
HUH?
SEE YA.
IF YOU STRAY FROM THE ROAD, THEY'LL KILL YOU.
AAAGH!
BWOOOO

EEEK!

VWOOOOOO

...BUT *THIS* IS *RIDICULOUS*!!

I'VE HEARD THE WEATHER CAN TURN QUICKLY IN THESE MOUNTAINS...

OOO

NO ONE COULD SURVIVE IN THESE CONDITIONS FOR AN *ENTIRE MONTH*!!

THAT'S A LIE!! THAT'S GOTTA BE A LIE!!

OUR TEACHER, IZUMI, SAID SHE SURVIVED A *WHOLE MONTH* IN THE BRIGGS MOUNTAINS IN WINTER, AND SHE CAME OUT UNSCATHED!

D-D-D-DON'T WORRY, AL!

WE'VE COMPLETELY LOST THE ROAD!!

WHAT DO WE DO NOW, BIG BROTHER?!!

HURFF

NO WAY!! THEY SAY THE BEARS IN THE BRIGGS MOUNTAINS REACH TEN FEET WHEN THEY REAR UP ON THEIR HIND LEGS!

SHE SAID SHE EVEN KILLED A BEAR!!

OOOOOOO

THERE'S NO WAY SHE COULD HAVE—

VAM

B...

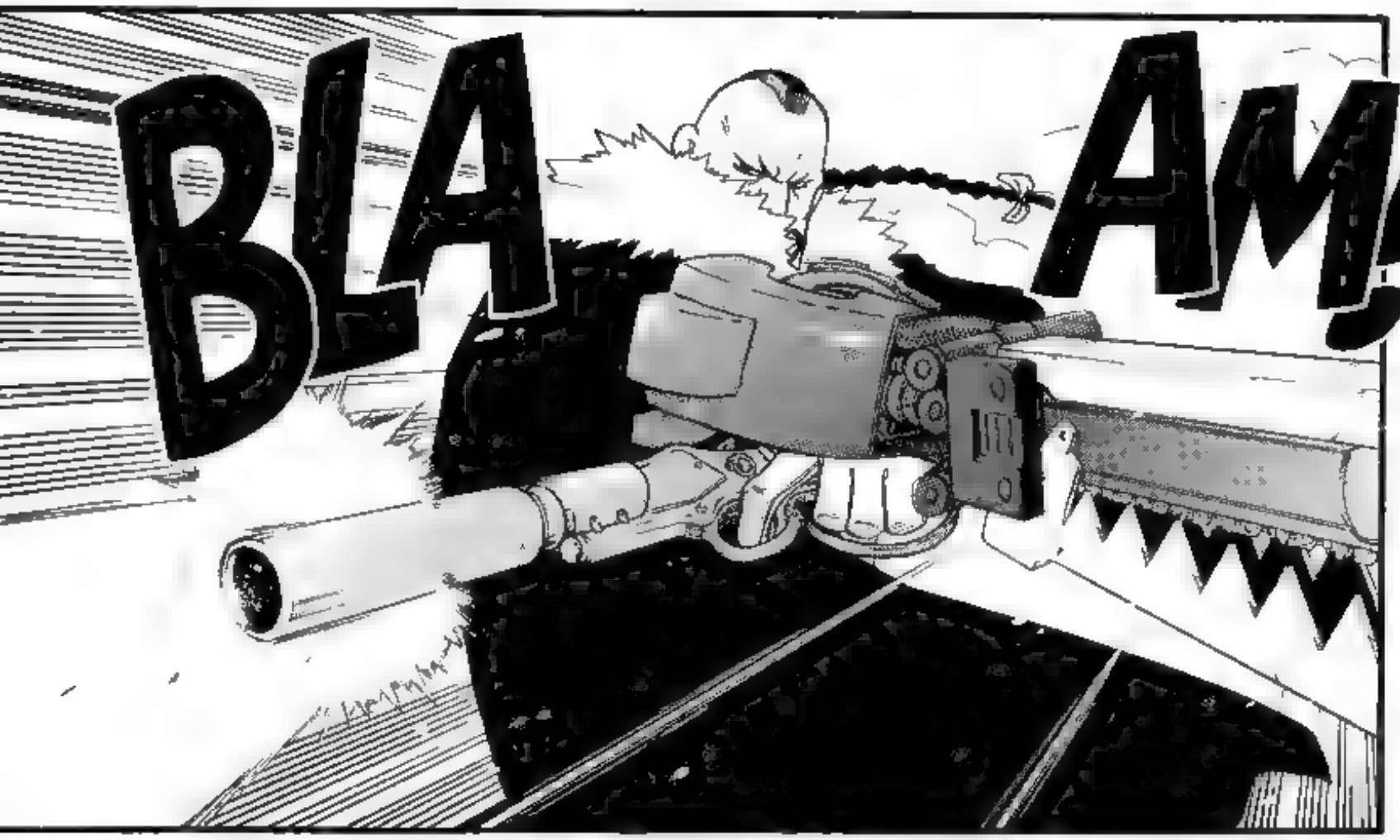
BEAR !!!

KA

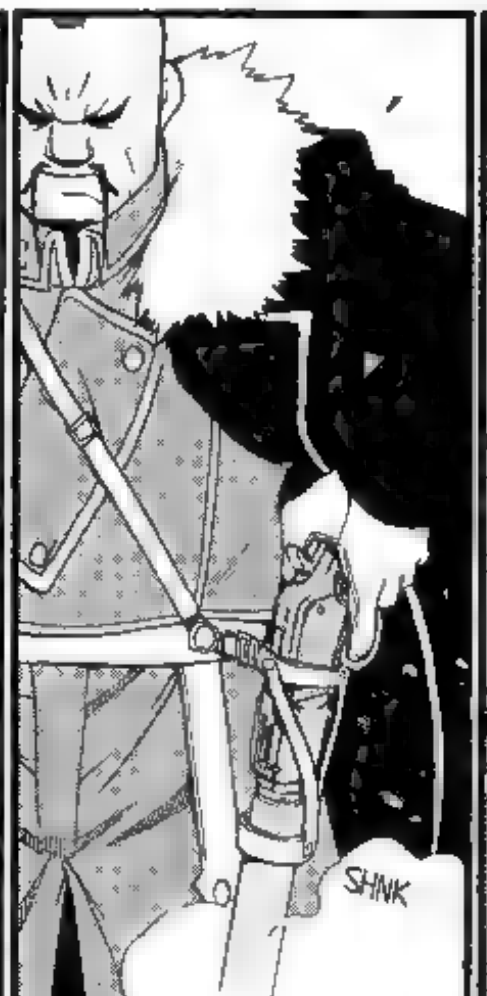
FOOSH

!!

THAT'S NO BEAR!!


BLA
AM!

AAAAAH!
YOU'RE WEARING A MILITARY UNIFORM !!
HEY, WAIT A SECOND !!


SHNK

VAP
AL !!
WHA ?!

HUH ?

JUDGING BY THAT CONTRAPTION ON YOUR ARM, I'D SAY YOU HAVE BAD TASTE.

LOOKS PRETTY *ORDI-NARY.*

HMM... SO YOU'RE WEARING AUTO-MAIL, TOO?

SURRENDER QUIETLY UNLESS YOU WANT TO BE CHEWED TO PIECES, YOU MISERABLE DRACHMANIAN SPY!!

GRAAH!! YOU'RE A ***FOOL*** IF YOU CAN'T APPRECIATE ***THIS*** BEAUTIFUL PIECE OF MACHINERY!!

"SPY" ?!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, WE'RE—

THIS IS THE HEAVY COMBAT M1913-A "CROCODILE" !!

SNAP

...WHOA !!

WINCE

YOU NEED TO LEARN TO *LISTEN*, SAS-QUATCH !!

WHY YOU...

I CAN'T MOVE MY AUTO-MAIL !!

OW...

WHAT'S WITH THIS *PAIN* ?

GRAB

HUH ?

KA CHANK

I'VE GOT YOU NOW !!

NGH!

WHY YOU...

IT'S COLD !!

LISTEN TO WHAT I'M TRYING TO TELL YOU!!

HEY! YOU GOT SNOW INSIDE MY CLOTHES !!

SLAM

VREEEM

HAVEN'T GIVEN UP YET?!

TUG

YANK

VRRRM

VRE

VRM VRM

EEEE

EE

SNIK

HUH?

NO WAY !!!

KLANG

WHZZZZZZ!

WHZ WHZ WHZ

WHAT THE HECK IS *THIS* ?!!!

WHZ WHZ WHZ

WAIT, WAIT, WAIT !

I DON'T *THINK* SO !

CLAP

WHY YOU.. !

WHZZZZZZZ

I'M GOING TO *DES-TROY* YOUR CHEAP AUTO-MAIL!!

HUR HUR !!

WHRRRRR

AUTO-MAIL DESTRUC-TION !!!

BA

THE ONLY ARM THAT'S GOING DOWN IS YOURS !!

M

MMM...

VREEEEEE...

WHZ

CLOMP

ZZZZZ

AAAAAAH!!

TIME OUT, TIME OUT!!

ZZZ

WHAT DID YOU DO?

WHIRRRRRR.R

BAH!

THANKS, AL!!

BIG BRO-THER !!

GRAB

WHAT THE-?!

FZZZZSH

KLANK

WHRRG

CHANK

SLIP

OOPH !!

BIG BRO-THER !!

FWUMP

YOW !

RUN !

WHRRR

NOT BAD, BOY.

CLK

POOT

EVEN IF I SURVIVE THIS MOUNTAIN, WINRY'S GONNA ***KILL*** ME FOR MESSING UP HER AUTO-MAIL AGAIN!

THAT JERK !

BWOOOOOO

HUH ?

BUT ***THIS*** IS AS FAR AS YOU GO.

NOT BAD AT ALL... CONSID-ERING YOU WERE USING ***REGULAR*** AUTO-MAIL.

OH, GREAT.

MORE GUNS POINTED AT US?

BRIGGS MOUN-TAIN PATROL ?!

THIS IS THE GUY MAJOR ARM-STRONG WANTED TO INTRO-DUCE US TO... ?

"ARM-STRONG" ?

SIR !

SORRY FOR THE COM-MOTION, MAJOR GENERAL ARM-STRONG !!

SNAP

KLAK

WHAT'S GOING ON, CAPTAIN BUC-CANEER ?

THEY LOOK NO-THING ALIKE !!

SHE'S NOT HUGE !!

IDENTIFY YOUR-SELVES.

UH... I'M EDWARD ELRIC, THE FULL-METAL ALCHE-MIST!!

MAJOR ARMSTRONG FROM CENTRAL HQ SENT US HERE TO MEET...

AAAH, IT'S TOO HARD TO EXPLAIN !!

WE'RE HERE TO MEET WITH THE MAJOR GENERAL !

BUT FIRST, I REQUEST THAT YOU CALL OFF YOUR MEN!

MAJOR GENERAL OLIVIER MIRA ARMSTRONG...

THE MAJOR'S BIG SISTER !!

HUH...
?

FRISK THEM.

WHY, YOU...

!!!

WHAT THE...? IT'S EMPTY ?!

BUT WE'RE ON *YOUR* SIDE!

I DON'T KNOW THAT.

ANYONE CAN CLAIM TO BE SOMEONE FAMOUS.

HM..

My Sister

Alex

WE HAVE A LETTER OF INTRO-DUCTION FROM MAJOR ALEX LOUIS ARM-STRONG !

IF YOU'D JUST READ IT, YOU'LL KNOW WE'RE NOT LYING!

MA-JOR GEN-ERAL !

RIP

IT'S DEFIN-ITELY *FROM* ALEX.

WHA...?

TOSS

I DON'T NEED ANYONE ELSE'S EVALUATION.

I MAKE ***MY OWN*** JUDGMENTS ABOUT PEOPLE.

RIP RIP RIP

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO READ IT?!

A LETTER OF INTRO-DUCTION *MEANS* NOTHING TO ME.

BWOOOOOO

IN THIS LAND ONLY THE ***STRONG*** SURVIVE.

THIS IS ***BRIGGS***, A NATURAL FORTIFI-CATION.

WOOOOOO

ENTER, FULL-METAL ALCHE-MIST.

Ooo

BUT I'M WARNING YOU ***NOW***... I HAVE NO INTENTION OF ***BABY-SITTING*** YOU.

WHOA!

FULLMETAL
ALCHEMIST

IT'S HUGE !!

UP, YOU LAG-GARDS !

WHOA !! THOSE WALLS ARE SO TALL !!

WHAT IS THIS PLACE ?!!

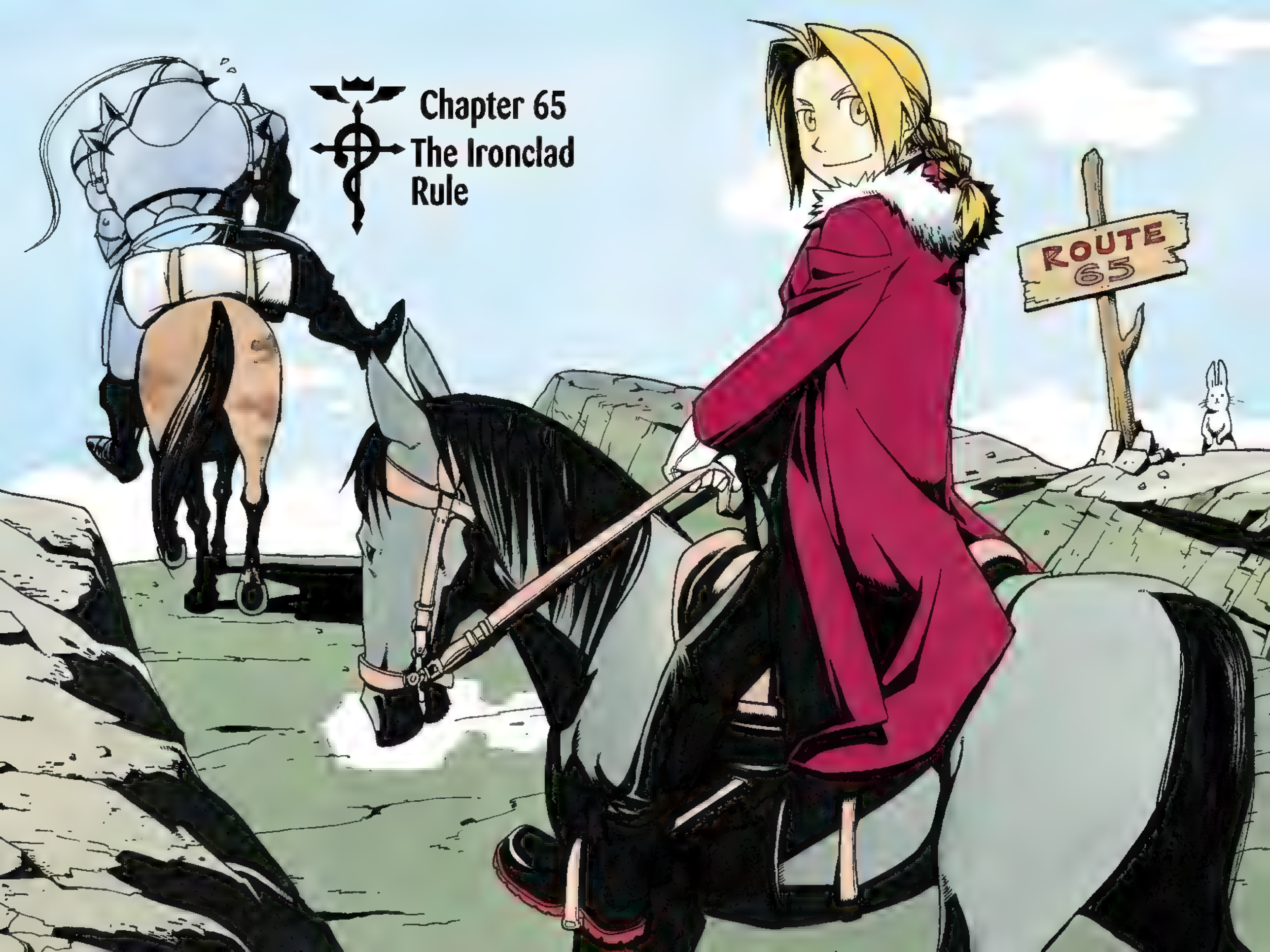
BASH!!

AND IF YOU DO SOME-THING STUPID...

EEEP!

...I'LL RIP THAT COWLICK ANTENNA OFF THE TOP OF YOUR HEAD!!

Chapter 65
The Ironclad Rule



TISSUE DAMAGE FROM EXPOSURE TO SUB-ZERO TEMPER-ATURES?

MEDICAL ROOM

AT THESE TEMPERATURES, YOU NEED TO CHANGE THE TYPE OF OIL YOU USE OR YOUR AUTO-MAIL WON'T MOVE SMOOTHLY.

WALKING AROUND FOR HOURS IN A SNOW-STORM EQUIPPED WITH THIS KIND OF AUTO-MAIL, THE COLD CONDUCTED BY THE METAL CAUSES FROSTBITE ON THE CONNECTING TISSUES.

YUP IN OTHER WORDS– ***FROST-BITE.***

ANY LONGER AND THE DAMAGE WOULD HAVE BEEN PERMA-NENT.

CLNK CLNK CLNK CLNK CLNK

...THAT BUCCANEER GUY COULD MOVE IN THE SNOW WITHOUT ANY PROBLEMS.

BUT...

HEY!! THAT'S MY HEAD !!

HMH ?

I CAN'T UNTANGLE THIS HELMET !!

IT'S NO USE, DOCTOR !

KIAK

THROUGH TRIAL AND ERROR, WE'VE CREATED AN AUTO-MAIL THAT ACCOMP-LISHES THIS...

...BY COMBINING GERALMINE ALUMINUM, CARBON FIBER AND NICKEL-COPPER ALLOYS.

FSHH

HERE IN THE NORTH, AUTO-MAIL HAS TO BE FLEXIBLE AND LIGHT-WEIGHT.

IT ALSO MUST BE ABLE TO WITH-STAND THE COLD.

IT NEEDS TO BE STURDY WITHOUT PUTTING ANY UNNECESSARY STRESS ON THE WEARER'S BODY.

THE OIL WE USE IS SPECIAL-IZED FOR COLD CLIMATES.

AND IN THE CASE OF CAPTAIN BUCCANEER'S CROCODILE MODEL, THE HEAT FROM THE MOTOR'S EXHAUST PREVENTS FROSTBITE ON HIS SHOULDER.

I SEE.

NO WONDER I COULDN'T DESTROY HIS AUTO-MAIL.

I WAS TRYING TO COMBAT STEEL BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT ALL AUTO-MAIL WAS MADE OF.

ARE YOU FOR REAL?

HE EVEN HAS THE SILVER WATCH.

LOOM

YOU DON'T NEED TO REVEAL MY WEAKNESS, DOCTOR.

WHY NOT?

AFTER ALL, HE'S A HIGHLY-RE-SPECTED STATE ALCHE-MIST, ISN'T HE?

RRGH.. I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS RUNT'S RANK IS EQUAL TO A MAJOR..

HEH HEH HEH..

BAFF

MAKE SURE YOU DON'T EXPOSE YOUR HANDS AND FEET TO TEMPERATURES OF MINUS SEVEN DEGREES FOR MORE THAN THREE HOURS.

AND IF YOU'RE PLANNING ON STAYING IN THE NORTH FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME YOU SHOULD GET YOURSELF OUT-FITTED WITH...

...COLD-CLIMATE AUTO-MAIL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

THAT'S STANDARD PRO-CEDURE FOR AVOIDING FROST-BITE.

DON'T FORGET IT!

MY HAIR !!!

AAA AAH !!

DO YOU HAVE A PERSONAL ENGINEER ?

SHE'S IN RUSH VALLEY.

...UNLESS YOU WANT TO END UP *DEAD*.

HER CLIENT WAS GOING NORTH, BUT SHE DIDN'T GIVE YOU ANY SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR EQUIP YOU WITH A DIFFERENT MODEL?

GASP!

OH... UH, I DIDN'T EXACTLY *TELL* HER I WAS GOING NORTH..

LOOKS SO UN-COOL

WELL, YOU BETTER CALL HER UP HERE AND HAVE HER FIT YOU WITH A NEW ONE.

IT'S NOT EVEN AS GOOD AS THE COFFEE AT EASTERN HQ!

THAT WAS LOW

IT'S YOUR FAULT FOR LETTING YOUR GUARD DOWN!

PUH

THAT'LL BE 100 CENZ FOR THE COFFEE!

SIP

...ALL RIGHT.

I BROUGHT THAT LETTER OF INTRODUCTION BECAUSE I'D LIKE TO REQUEST THE AID OF MAJOR GENERAL ARMSTRONG!!

OH, YEAH...

MILITARY COMMAND SAID NOTHING OF YOUR VISIT.

WHAT DID YOU COME HERE FOR EQUIPPED WITH THAT RUN-OF-THE-MILL AUTO-MAIL OF YOURS?

WELL...?

RED

WHAT?

SPEAK UP IF YOU HAVE ANY COM-PLAINTS.

ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ME, YOU RED-CLOAKED RUNT?

KLATTA

THAT FEMALE GENERAL WOULDN'T EVEN LISTEN TO WHAT I HAD TO SAY. PLUS, SHE TOLD ME SHE'D RIP OUT MY ANTENNA!

BAM

IS ALEX WELL ?

...

I HEAR YOU'RE ON FRIENDLY TERMS WITH MY LITTLE BROTHER.

FLOP

SO...

YES !

HE'S AS MUSCLE-BOUND AS EVER!

SHE CARES ABOUT THE MAJOR, AFTER ALL?

I JUST ASSUMED THEY DON'T GET ALONG BECAUSE SHE RIPPED UP HIS LETTER OF INTRODUCTION WITHOUT EVEN READING IT.

HUH ?

OH, WELL... THAT'S FINE.

"TCH!!" ?!

TELL ME WHY YOU CAME TO SEE ME DIRECTLY INSTEAD OF GOING THROUGH CENTRAL COMMAND.

EDWARD AND ALPHONSE ELRIC, WASN'T IT?

HE'S DOING VERY WELL !

TCH !!

...

AND MAKE SURE YOU EXPLAIN— WITHOUT HIDING ***ANYTHING***— WHY THAT SUIT OF ARMOR IS ***EMPTY.***

!

...

THAT'S SOME-THING WE'D RATHER NOT TALK ABOUT...

WE ALL HAVE THINGS WE'D "RATHER NOT TALK ABOUT." SO THAT'S ***NO EXCUSE.***

EVERYONE HERE HAS A FEW SKELETONS IN THEIR CLOSET.

DON'T WORRY.

LOOKS LIKE WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO START FROM THE ***BEGIN-NING.***

UH-HUH.

JUDGING FROM HER STYLE SO FAR, SHE'S NOT GOING TO LET THIS GO.

PST PST PST

OH, I'VE DONE ***PLENTY*** OF THINGS LIKE THAT.

BUT THESE THINGS COULD GET ***ME COURT-MARTIALED*** IF THEY EVER GOT OUT...

BIG BRO-THER..

UNGH..

THAT'S RIGHT. AL, BACK ME UP WHEN I TELL HER THE SOLE PURPOSE OF OUR JOURNEY IS TO GET OUR ORIGINAL BODIES BACK.

OKAY.

PST PST

WE JUST HAVE TO MAKE SURE WE DON'T MENTION THE PRESIDENT OR THE HOMUNCULI.

IT ALL BEGAN WHEN WE ATTEMPTED HUMAN TRANSMUTATION...

UH...

RIGHT FROM THE VERY BEGINNING WE'VE BEEN ON A PATH TO GETTING COURT-MARTIALED.

ALL RIGHT. I UNDERSTAND.

AND SO NOW YOU'RE SEARCHING FOR THE LITTLE GIRL WHO'S TRAVELING WITH THIS BLACK AND WHITE CAT?

NOD NOD

...I SEE.

WAF WAF

ON THE CON-TRARY...

SO, YOU'LL HELP US?!

IT'S CLEAR TO ME NOW THAT THE TWO OF YOU ARE NOT ONLY RECKLESS...

...BUT CAUSE PANIC AND DESTRUCTION WHEREVER YOU GO, ALL FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR PERSONAL CRUSADE. THAT MAKES ME SICK.

I WON'T ALLOW SUCH FOOLS TO REMAIN WITHIN MY FORTRESS.

I'M SHOCKED THAT CENTRAL WOULD ALLOW TRASH LIKE YOU TO REPRESENT OUR MILITARY.

I WANT YOU OUT OF MY SIGHT AS SOON AS POS-SIBLE.

...THAT'S WHAT I'D LIKE TO SAY, BUT LUCKILY FOR YOU... I HAVE AN INTEREST IN THE PURIFICA-TION ARTS MYSELF...

I INTEND TO IMPORT IT.

IT'S AN ART THAT IS UNKNOWN IN THIS COUNTRY.

SO YOU TWO ARE ***ACQUAINTED*** WITH THIS GIRL WHO PRACTICES THE PURIFICATION ARTS?

YES, SORT OF...

THEY'RE CALLED THE ***PURIFI-CATION*** ARTS FOR A REASON! THEY'RE BASED ON CONCEPTS OF ***HEALING!***

HEY, HOLD ON A SEC-OND!

THE PURIFICATION ARTS MIGHT BE A GREAT WEAPON IF PROPERLY DEPLOYED.

ESPECIALLY IN A LAND THAT SHARES ITS BORDER WITH ***DRACHMA.***

YOU CAN NEVER HAVE ENOUGH TECHNIQUES IN YOUR ARSENAL.

I WILL USE ***ANY MEANS NECESSARY*** TO AID ***ME*** IN ***MY*** DUTY.

AND IT'S ***MY*** JOB TO SEE THAT THE NORTHERN BORDER REMAINS SECURE.

SHUT UP.

AND YOU WANT TO USE IT AS A ***WEAPON OF WAR?***

DON'T FORGET THAT YOUR STANDARD OF LIVING DEPENDS UPON THE SACRIFICES OF THOSE OF US WHO PROTECT THIS COUNTRY'S BORDER.

SPARE ME YOUR YAPPING. YOU'RE JUST A DOG WHO KNOWS NOTHING OF THE WORLD OUTSIDE ITS YARD.

...BUT I DON'T CARE.

YOU ALCHEMISTS SAY THAT ***ONE*** ALWAYS EQUALS ***ONE***...

IN THIS WAR, YOU CAN NEVER BE ***TOO*** PRE-PARED.

LAWS LIKE THAT SHOULD BE ***BROKEN.***

THE ***RIGHT TECHNIQUE*** IN THE ***RIGHT HANDS*** CAN TURN A DEFEAT AT THE HANDS OF THE ENEMY INTO A TENFOLD VICTORY!

LIKE THE SAYING GOES, "THOSE WHO DON'T WORK, DON'T DESERVE TO EAT."

...GIVE THEM SOME ***WORK*** TO DO.

MAJOR MILES...

HUH ?!

WE'LL FIND THE GIRL WHO USES THE PURIFI-CATION ARTS.

YOU TWO... JUST MAKE SURE YOU DON'T LEAVE THE FORT.

...FAIR ENOUGH.

...BUT NOW I KNOW THAT ON THE ***INSIDE***, THEY'RE STILL SOFT.

KLAK

KLAK

KLAK

HMPH!

THEY PUT UP A TOUGH FRONT, AND THEY CAN FIGHT...

SOUNDS LIKE THEY'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT.

KLAK

KLAK

KLAK

KLAK

KLAK

KLAK

THAT I'M SURE OF.

THEY STILL HAVE A ***SECRET*** THEY'RE KEEPING FROM US.

AND...

KLAK

KLAK

KLAK

KLAK

HWOOOOO

KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
HEY, WHAT KIND OF WORK ARE WE GOING TO DO?
KLAK
KLAK
WHY WON'T HE TALK?
SHEESH! THIS GUY'S COLDER THAN A BLIZ ZARD!
.....
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
ANY SKELETONS IN YOUR CLOSET? IT'S NOT FAIR THAT WE'RE THE ONLY ONES WHO HAVE TO 'FESS UP.
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
WHAT ABOUT YOU, MAJOR MILES?
...THE DOCTOR SAID EVERYONE HERE HAS *SOMETHING* THEY'D RATHER FORGET...
KLAK
KLAK
EARLI-ER...
DO YOU REALLY WANT TO KNOW ?
KLAK...

!!

RED EYES...

YOU'RE ISH-BALAN ?!

I HEARD THAT ALL THE ISHBALAN SOLDIERS WERE ROUNDED UP BEFORE THE EXTERMINATION CAMPAIGN!!

BUT... *HOW* ?!

...THAT'S WHY I HAVE THIS SKIN AND EYE COLOR.

MY GRAND-FATHER'S BLOOD RUNS THICKEST IN MY VEINS. I SUP-POSE...

SIMPLE. I'M NOT FROM ISHBAL.

I *DO* HAVE ISHBALAN BLOOD IN ME, BUT MY GRANDMOTHER, MY FATHER..EVEN MY *MOTHER* ARE OF A DIFFERENT ETHNICITY.

YOUR PEOPLE CAUSED MUCH DESTRUCTION IN THE LAND OF MY ANCESTORS...

...AMES-TRIAN.

YOU ISHBALANS SET FIRE TO MY HOME-TOWN...

HUFF

...AND KILLED THE PARENTS OF MY CHILD-HOOD FRIEND.

HEY.. BIG BRO-THER !!

I KNOW I SPOKE HARSHLY. I'M GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR TREATING ME AS AN EQUAL.

...YOU WERE ***TEST-ING*** ME?

HA HA HA HA HA!

YOU'RE THE FIRST PERSON WHO'S EVER TALKED BACK TO ME LIKE THAT.

HEH.

I'M SORRY.

SINCE THE CIVIL WAR, MOST PEOPLE BECOME UNCOM-FORTABLE WHEN THEY SEE THE COLOR OF MY EYES.

THEY CONSIDER AN ISHBALAN TO BE AN OBJECT OF... ***PITY***.

TO BE HONEST, I'M GETTING SICK OF HAVING TO EXPLAIN MYSELF.

WHEN ***ETHNICITY*** IS ALL YOU THINK ABOUT, THERE'S BOUND TO BE CONFRON-TATION...

...BUT IF WE DEAL WITH ONE ANOTHER AS ***INDIVIDUALS***, THEN IT'S POSSIBLE TO TREAT EACH OTHER AS ***EQUALS***.

WELL, AN ISHBALAN TRIED TO KILL ME, KIDNAP ME, AND ENDED UP AS OUR ALLY. SO I'M PRETTY WELL ACQUAINTED WITH ISHBALANS.

YOU TWO NEITHER FEARED NOR PITIED ME...

...AND LOOKED ME STRAIGHT IN THE EYES.

FORTU-
NATELY,
I WAS
JUST FAR
ENOUGH
FROM THE
FRONT
TO BE
IGNORED.

MANY
OF MY
ISHBALAN
RELATIVES—
INCLUDING
MY GRAND-
FATHER—
WERE KILLED
IN THE
EAST.

THE
EXTERMI-
NATION
CAMPAIGN
BEGAN
JUST AS
I WAS
ASSIGNED
HERE.

YES.

EVEN
THEN,
I WAS
MAJOR
GENERAL
ARM-
STRONG'S
ASSIS-
TANT.

KLAK KLAK

MAJOR MILES,
WERE YOU
ENLISTED IN
THE MILITARY
DURING THE
EXTERMINATION
CAMPAIGN?

OH...
I'M
SORRY
IF I
OF-
FENDED
YOU.

HUH
?

YOU'RE REALLY
NOT AFRAID
TO ASK DIRECT
QUESTIONS,
ARE YOU?

...DIDN'T
YOU
FEEL
HATRED
TOWARDS
THE
MILITARY?

AN
"IGNOR-
ANT"
STATE
ALCHE-
MIST?

I
GUESS
I
ASK
THINGS
LIKE
THAT...

...BECAUSE
I'M ***SICK***
OF MY
OWN
IGNOR-
ANCE.

I DID HATE THEM.

AT THE SAME TIME, I QUESTIONED WHY THE MAJOR GENERAL KEPT ME ON AS HER ASSISTANT INSTEAD OF SENDING ME TO THE INTERNMENT CAMPS.

GWOOOM GWOOOM

ANY TYPE OF PREJUDICE ON THE BATTLEFIELD CAN ONLY LEAD TO WEAKNESS AND AN INCREASE IN CASUALTIES.

RACE, ETHNICITY, GENDER, CLASS...

ONE DAY, I CONFRONTED THE MAJOR GENERAL.

I DON'T JUST HAVE ISHBALAN BLOOD— I *LOOK* ISHBALAN.

GWOOOM

BRIGGS IS ONE LOCATION THAT WE CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE.

NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, NO MATTER WHO IS STANDING BY YOUR SIDE, AS LONG AS YOU WEAR THIS UNIFORM...

SNAP

KLAK

GWOOOM

WHY WOULD YOU ASK SUCH A THING, MILES.

HOW COULD SHE KEEP ME BY HER SIDE WHEN MY VERY PRESENCE COULD JEOPARDIZE HER AUTHORITY WITH THE TROOPS?

WE MUST BE A *SINGLE FORCE!* LET NOTHING WEAKEN OUR RESOLVE!

...YOU MUST BE PREPARED TO MOVE QUICKLY AND DECISIVELY AS YOU CARRY OUT YOUR SUPERIORS' ORDERS.

I WAS BORN AND RAISED IN AMESTRIS. IN ORDER FOR ME TO BE AN EFFECTIVE LEADER, I NEED THE RESPECT OF *ALL* MY MEN, ESPECIALLY PEOPLE LIKE YOU, MILES..

SO STOP WORRYING AND JUST FOLLOW MY ORDERS.

IT APPEARS TO ME THAT IT'S BECAUSE OF THAT BLOOD THAT YOU VIEW THIS COUNTRY FROM A UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE..

YOU DON'T JUST HAVE ISHBALAN BLOOD FLOWING WITHIN YOU, YOU HAVE THE BLOOD OF MANY OTHER ETHNICITIES.

MILES..

HER WORDS...

...WERE RATIONAL AND WITHOUT DECEIT.

SO I ASKED HER, "WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF I, WITH MY ISHBALAN BLOOD, DECIDED NOT TO FORGIVE THE AMESTRIAN MILITARY?"

AND DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE MAJOR GENERAL'S REPLY WAS?

"FINE THEN, BRING IT ON."

"AS A REPRE-SENTATIVE OF THE AMESTRIAN MILITARY, I WILL ACCEPT YOUR CHALLENGE TO A DUEL ANYTIME."

I'LL KILL YOU.

NO, THE LOOK IN HER EYES TOLD ME THAT SHE REALLY WOULDN'T HESITATE TO CUT ME TO PIECES IN A FACE-TO-FACE DUEL.

...

SHE'S LIKE A MOUSE PRETENDING TO BE A TIGER.

...THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID.

YEAH, WHAT-EVER.

SHE ONLY SAID THAT BECAUSE SHE HAD HER *ENTIRE ARMY* BEHIND HER.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE GOVERNING PRINCIPLE IS HERE?

LET ME GUESS— "SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST"?

FROM THE GREENEST RECRUIT TO THE MOST SENIOR OFFICER, EVERYONE MUST ABIDE BY THIS PRINCIPLE.

ONLY THE STRONG WILL SURVIVE.

THOSE WITHOUT RESOLVE AND THOSE WHO LOWER THEIR GUARD WILL *DIE*

KLAK

KLAK

KLAK

THAT MEANS WE'RE ALL BEING JUDGED ON THE SAME SCALE.

YES.

KLAK

KLAK

KLAK

...

AND HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ETHNICITY, NATIONALITY, OR GENDER.

VERY SIMPLE.

IT'S A TRUTH THAT NEVER CHANGES, 24 HOURS A DAY, 365 DAYS A YEAR.

SMASH!

TRIP

BIG BRO-THER, YOU NEED TO WATCH WHERE YOU'RE-

WHOA! THAT WAS CLOSE...

TIP TUP

KLAKA

THAT WAS *ALSO* AN EXAMPLE OF SURVIVAL OF THE *FIT-TEST.*

LUCK WAS ON YOUR SIDE— THAT'S WHY YOU SURVIVED.

KRIK

IF YOU HADN'T TRIPPED, YOUR HEAD WOULD'VE BEEN SPLIT IN TWO.

?

THAT'S..

...NOW *YOUR* JOB.

TSK..

THE DETAIL IN CHARGE OF KNOCKING DOWN THE ICICLES MUST BE SLACKING OFF.

HEH HEH...

WE PATROL THE CORRIDORS AND KNOCK DOWN THE ICICLES THAT BUILD UP INSIDE THE COMPOUND.

SKRIK

SKRIK

TA—DAH!

GIVE IT A TRY.

IT'S A SIMPLE JOB, BUT IMPOR-TANT.

MAKE SURE YOU DON'T HIT ANY PEDESTRIANS OR MAKE THE MACHINERY MAL-FUNCTION.

OKAY.

WHY'D *WE* GET STUCK TRAINING 'EM?

PEH! SOUTH-ERNERS...

THEY'RE NOT VERY EFFICIENT, ARE THEY?

PSP

PSP

PSP

EEEK!

AGH!

URGH!

UGH!

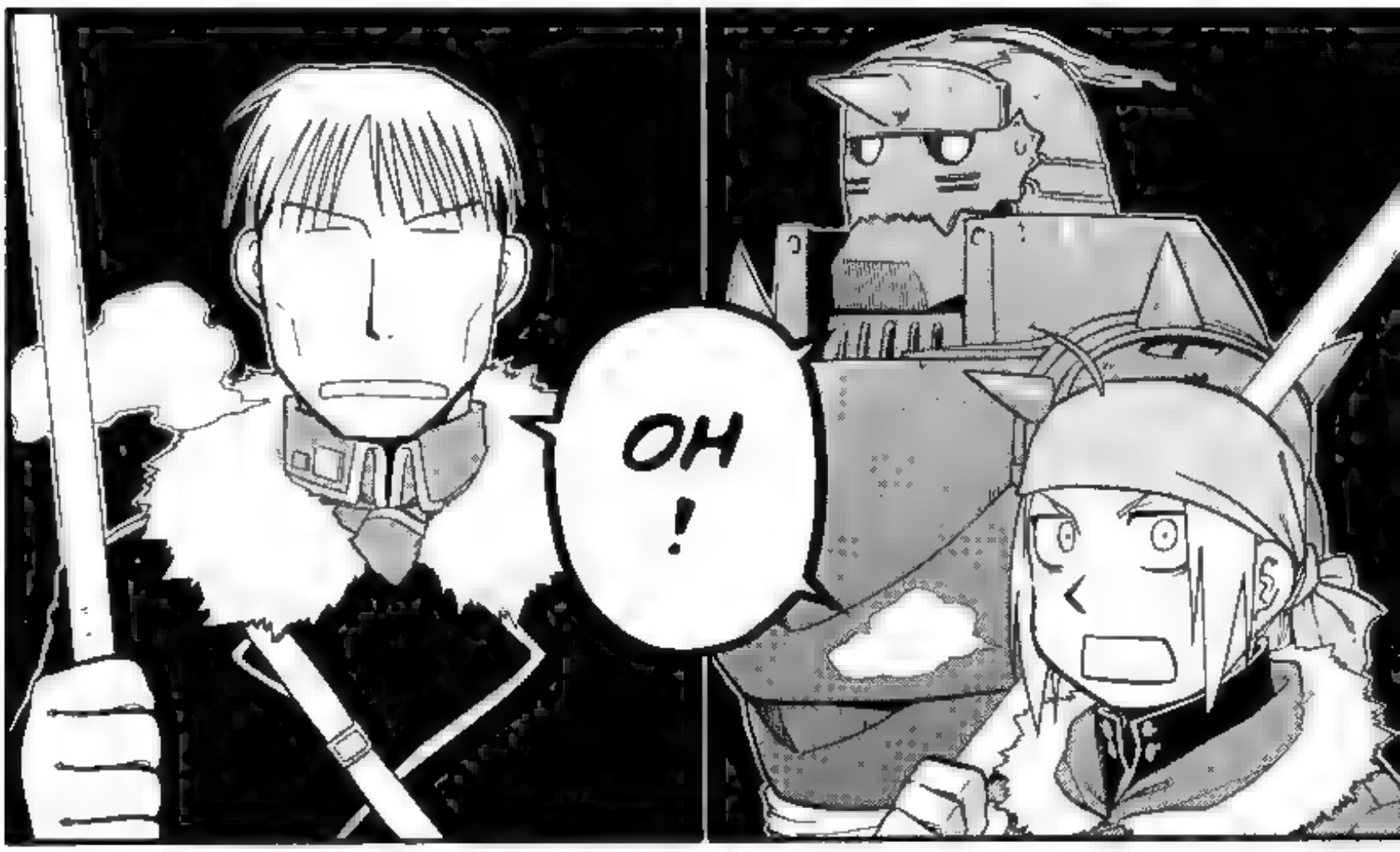
KLASH

OKAY, OKAY.

POP

I CAN'T REACH IT...

HERE I AM...
TMP TMP TMP
YEAH, YEAH.
ARE YOU THERE, SIR?!
SEC OND LIEJ- TENANT !!
ALL RIGHT.
HEY! WHY DON'T WE LEAVE THEM WITH THAT NEW GUY.


OH !
THE ELRIC BRO- THERS !!
WAR- RANT OFF- ICER FAL- MAN !!

WELL, I WAS STATIONED AT HEADQUARTERS, BUT THEY TRANSFERRED ME AGAIN, SO NOW I'M HERE CUTTING DOWN ICICLES.
SOUTH OF THE MOUN- TAINS.
DIDN'T THEY ASSIGN YOU TO NORTH HQ?
WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING HERE ?!
FRIENDS OF YOURS, 2ND LT.?

DON'T SAY THAT !!!

..YOU'VE MISSED THE TRAIN TO SUC-CESS.

BUT THE FACT THAT YOU'RE DOING SUCH A MENIAL JOB MUST MEAN...

YUP !

HEH HEH.

CON-GRATULA-TIONS ON YOUR PROMO-TION.

YOU'RE A 2ND LT. NOW ?!

WOO-WOO

GATAN

GATAN

GASHAAAA

GATAN

THE RED LOTUS ALCHE-MIST.

SOLF J. KIMBLEE...

GATAN

I REMEMBER ALL THE FACES I ENCOUNTER WHILE I'M WORKING.

WERE THOSE PEOPLE WHO WERE WITH YOU AT THE TIME YOUR FAMILY MEMBERS?

GATAN

OF COURSE. I REMEM-BER YOU WELL.

YOU WERE IN THE KANDA REGION OF ISHBAL.

GATAN

DO YOU REMEM-BER ME?

GATAN

I COULD TELL HE WAS IN EXTREME AGONY.

HE BLED PROFUSELY FROM A WOUND IN HIS LOWER LEFT STOMACH.

ONE MAN WITH GLASSES LOOKED EXACTLY LIKE YOU.

GO SHAK!

BOOM

AAAA AAH !

PHUP!

TUP TUP TUP

IF I'M GOING TO ESCAPE, I'VE GOT TO DO IT NOW!

I CAN'T HANG AROUND HERE WITH THESE MONSTERS.

..WHERE AM I GOING TO GO...?

WOOSH

BUT...

THIS ISN'T GOOD.

TH

...BEEN FIGHTING NON-STOP SINCE THE CIVIL WAR ENDED.

I'M AT A DISAD-VANTAGE, IN TERMS OF ENDUR-ANCE.

KLATTA

KLUNK

SKKKKKID

I'M STILL OUT OF SHAPE FROM ALL THAT TIME IN PRISON, WHILE HE HAS...

BUT IN THE END, **DESTRUC-TION** IS THE ONLY THING HE'S CAPABLE OF.

WOW

GA

THE LOWER LEFT STOMACH... RIGHT?

SHUNK

HEY, WHAT'S GOING ON? THE TRAIN'S SHAKING!

GA GA

RE-DUCE SPEED!!

GA GA GA GA GA GA

DID SOMETHING HAPPEN TOWARDS THE REAR OF THE TRAIN...?

GATA

GATA

GATA

...HOW...

...DISAP POINT ING.

KRAK KRAK

I WON'T EVEN GIVE YOU ENOUGH TIME TO PRAY TO YOUR GOD.

...I'VE TWICE...

...FAILED TO KILL.

YOU'RE AN ISHBA-LAN...

AGH !

TCH!

AND...

CLAP

SLAM

THOOM

THIS IS AN UNFORGIVABLE HUMILIATION, SCAR.

I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M BEING FORCED TO ESCAPE.

SKE SKE SKE SKE

NEXT TIME, LET US SETTLE THE SCORE.

HEH. HA HA HA !!

SKE SKE SKE SKE

SKE KIMBLEE! SKE

AFTER ALL, THE THIRD TIME'S THE CHARM.

HA... HA HA HA HA !!

HEY!! STOP THE TRAIN !!

WHAT THE-?!

BOOM

SKREEEEE

!!

YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING ME!!

THE REAR CAR IS GONE !!

DRIP

EH ?!

GRAB

HANG IN THERE !!

HEY, YOU, WHAT HAPPENED ?!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING ON THIS TRAIN?!

HEY !

...GO.

HUH ?

I'M ORDER-ING YOU...

...DON'T STOP THIS TRAIN.

NO... HE WHO ***BRINGS*** DEATH SEES DEATH EVERY DAY.

THAT'S RIGHT... DEATH IS COM-ING...

YES...

...THIS BATTLE-FIELD OF MINE!!

ONLY WORK WHERE I CAN RISK MY *SOUL* HAS ANY BEAUTY.

DEATH MEANS NOTHING TO ME...

HOW GLORI-OUS IT IS...

COMBAT AUTO-MAIL, TOO?

UH-HUH.

LET'S GO OVER HERE NEXT.

ALL OF THE MOST CUTTING EDGE TECHNOLOGY IN AMESTRIS IS GATHERED HERE FOR WEAPONS DEVELOP-MENT.

MAJOR GENERAL ARM-STRONG'S LITTLE PRO-JECT.

KLANG

KLANG

KLANG

KLANG

WHOA... WHAT IS ALL THIS?

THIS IS THE RESEARCH AND DEVELOP-MENT LEVEL.

KLANG

GWOON

KLANG

KLANG

GLON

IT'S WARM IN HERE.

COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM UP THERE.

GLON

THESE PIPES ARE THE LIFELINE OF THE ENTIRE FORT.

GLON

EVEN IF THE FORT GETS ATTACKED UP ABOVE, THIS CENTRAL CORE WILL STAY SAFE.

GLON

WOW...

GLON

THIS IS THE LOWEST LEVEL OF FORT BRIGGS.

GLON

IT'S HUGE !!!

GLON

GLON

GLCN
GLCN
WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOIN'!
SORRY ABOUT THAT
KLATTA
KLATTA
KLATTA
KLATTA
HEY, YOU'RE IN THE WAY! MOVE !!
WHAT ?
GLCN
OVER HERE, BOBBY !
GLCN
GLCN
?
SEE ?
SKRAK
SKRAK
CAN YOU TAKE A LISTEN ?
GLON
IT'S MAKING A STRANGE NOISE.
GLCN
GLON
WHAT ?!
GLON
IT'S COMING FROM BELOW THE GROUND.
GLON
SKRAK
SKRAK
SKRAK
GLON
GLON
THAT SOUND..
SKRAK
SKRAK
SKRAK

SKRAK
SKRIK
RMBL
IT SOUNDS LIKE...
RMBL
RMBL
RMBL
RMBL
RMBL
COULD IT BE THOSE BASTARDS FROM DRACHMA ?!
ARE THEY DIGGING A TUNNEL UNDER THE FORTRESS ?!
...SOMEONE'S *DIGGING* THROUGH THE BEDROCK.
SKRIK
SKRAK
RMBL
RMBL
RMBL
RMBL
TOO_
...MUCH...
WORK
RMBL
RMBL
RMBL
IT'S GETTING CLOSER!!
THIS IS *NOT* GOOD...
SKRIK
SHRAK

RMBL RMBL

BUT...

...DYING IS...

RMBL

...I FEEL LIKE I'M GOING TO DIE.

IT'S SO MUCH WORK THAT...

OHH...

IT'S TOO...

...MUCH WORK...

?

...TOO...

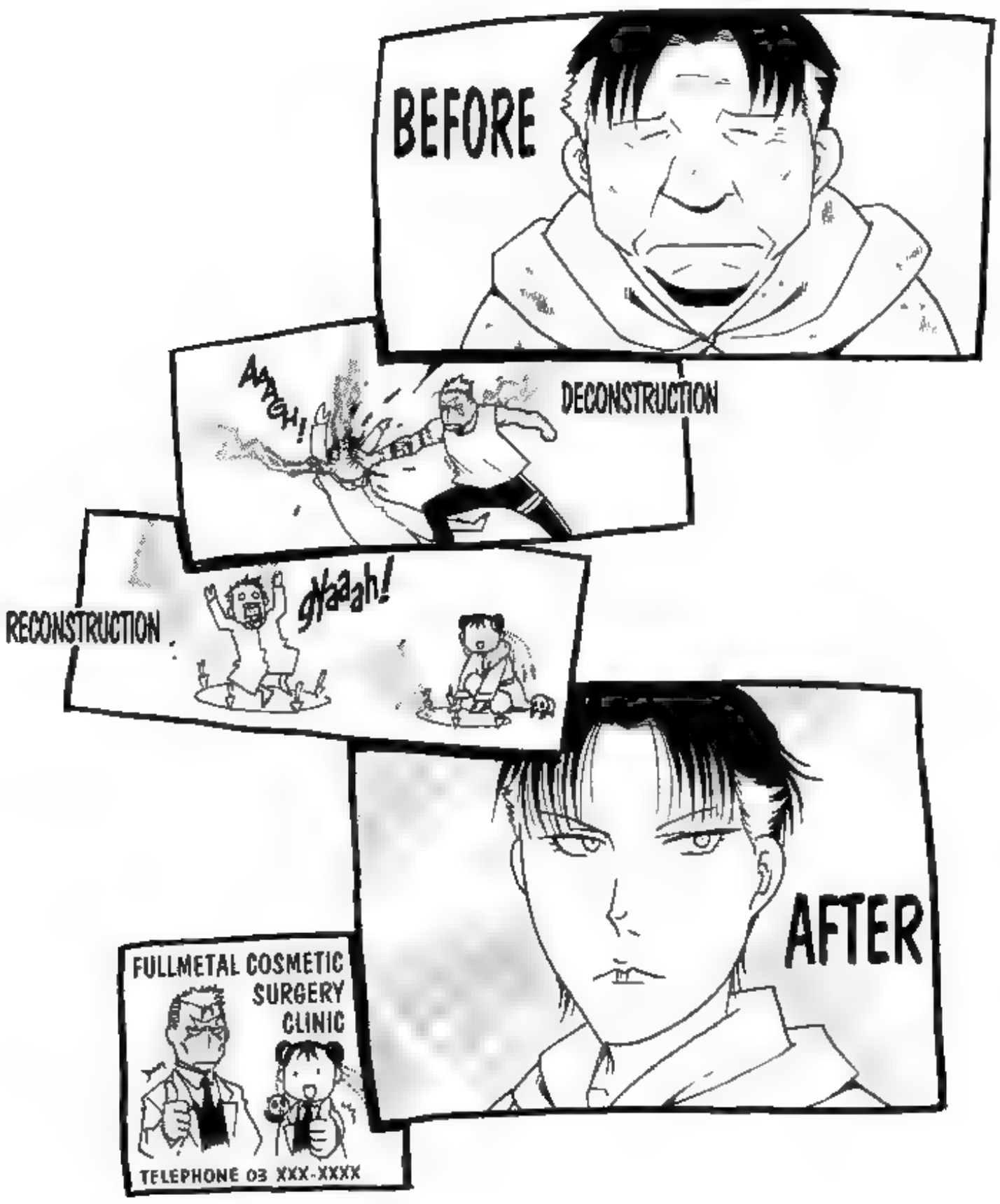
...MUCH...

...WORK...

RMBL RMBL RMBL RMBL

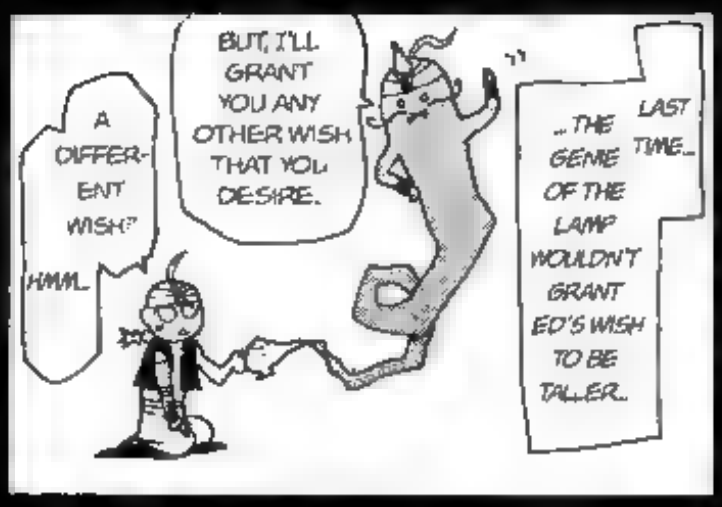
FULLMETAL
ALCHEMIST

EXTRAS


BEFORE
AAAGH!
DECONSTRUCTION
RECONSTRUCTION
Waaah!
AFTER
FULLMETAL COSMETIC SURGERY CLINIC
TELEPHONE 03 XXX-XXXX

SECRETS ARE REVEALED

EDWARD AND THE MAGIC LAMP 2


A DIFFER-ENT WISH? HMM.
BUT, I'LL GRANT YOU ANY OTHER WISH THAT YOU DESIRE.
LAST TIME... ...THE GENIE OF THE LAMP WOULDN'T GRANT ED'S WISH TO BE TALLER.

ABOUT HIS BODY AND STUFF?
REMEMBER
YOU KNOW ABOUT YOUR LITTLE BROTHER.
COME ON, HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN ABOUT YOUR GREATEST DESIRE?
RIGHT ?!
OH !!

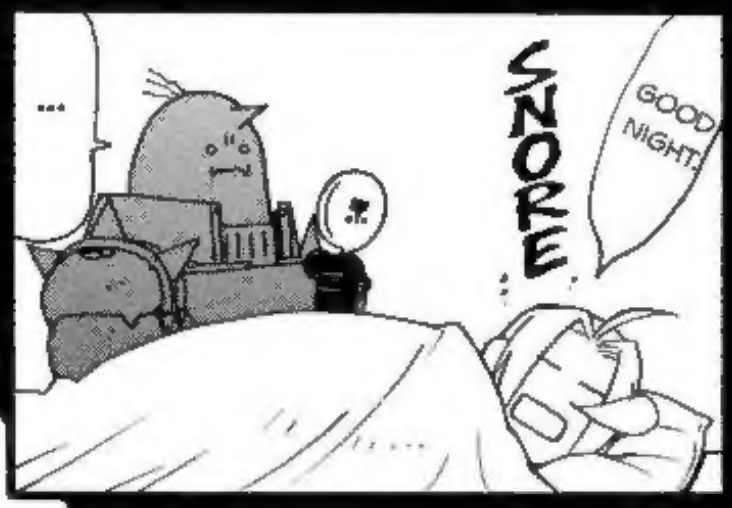
THAT'S WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT
YEAH!! THAT'S IT!
THAT'S TRUE!! I DO HAVE AN IMPORTANT WISH RELATED TO ALPHONSE'S BODY!!!
ALL RIGHT THEN, I'LL TELL YOU MY WISH!!

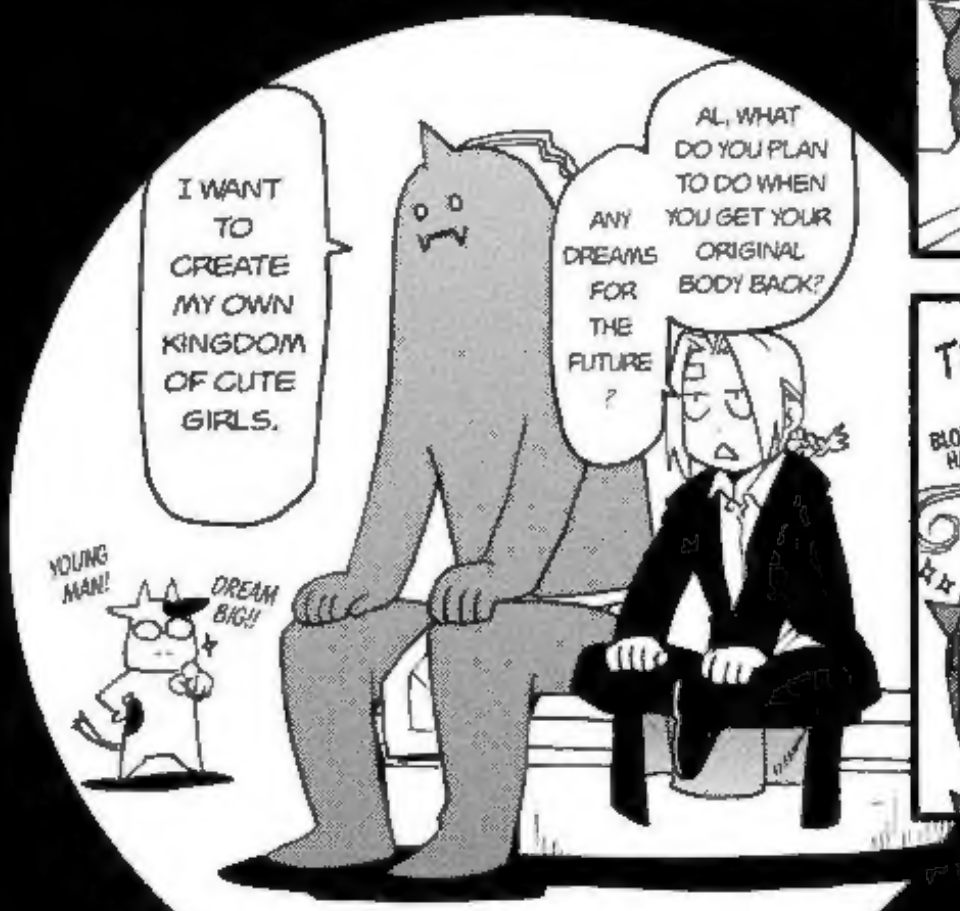
FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST 16

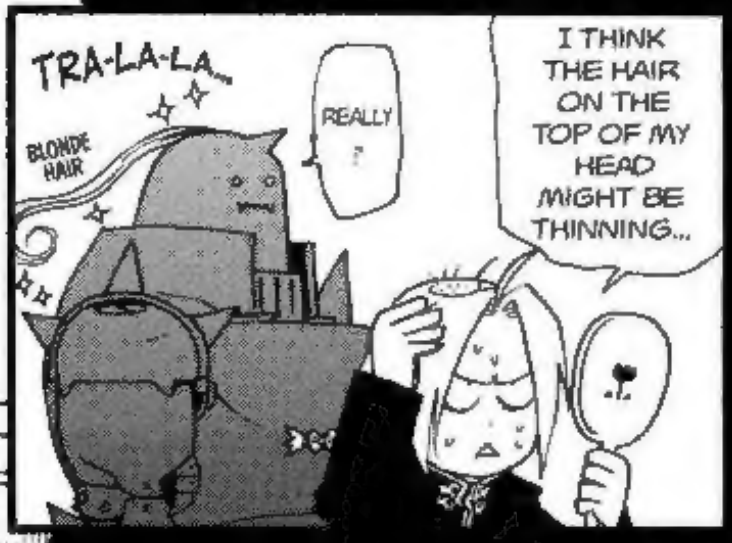
SPECIAL THANKS to:

KEISUI TAKAEDA
SANKICHI HINODEYA
JUN TOHKO
AIYABALL
NONO
YOICHI KAMITONO
MASASHI MIZUTANI
SAKAMAKI
MR. COUPON
NORIKO TSUBOTA
MASANARI YUZUKA sensei
MANAGER MR. YOICHI SHIMOMURA

MATERIALS ON-LOCATION




AND YOU!!
I WANT TO CREATE MY OWN KINGDOM OF CUTE GIRLS.
AL, WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO WHEN YOU GET YOUR ORIGINAL BODY BACK?
ANY DREAMS FOR THE FUTURE?
YOUNG MAN!
DREAM BIG!!

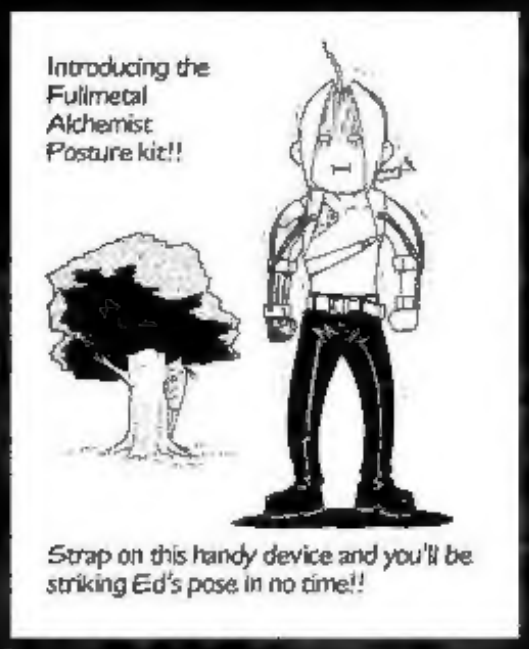


FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST VOLUME 17

Fullmetal Alchemist
The announcement of new book
予告

INSIDE A TRUTH WITH NO ESCAPE,
TERROR MAKES THE DARKNESS GROW...

WHO IN THE WORLD CAN STOP THIS DARKNESS?!



FOR SCIENCE GIRL

☆ VERY USEFUL SCIENCE ☆

PLEASE TEACH US, MS. RIZA! (LESSON #2)
LET'S MAKE AN ELECTROMAGNET!!
...AN ELECTRO-MAGNET!
TA-DA!
I THINK YOU BOYS NEED...
...WE ADD ELECTRICITY!
BZZT
BATTERY
ARRGH!!
BZ
AAAP!
NEXT...
MEGA BATTERY
FIRST, WE WIND THIS COPPER WIRE AROUND A SOFT IRON CORE.
LOOP
LOOP
LOOP
ACTUALLY, THE STEEL IN ED'S AUTO-MAIL CONTAINS MORE THAN 1% CARBON, SO IT'S HARDLY SOFT IRON!
THE SECRET IS TO USE A SOFT IRON CORE!
TRY IT, IF YOU GET LOST!
SOFT IRON: IRON WHICH CONTAINS LESS THAN 0.02% CARBON.
SO NORTH IS...THAT WAY?!
THANKS, BIG BROTHER!
...THE ELECTRICAL CURRENT MAGNETIZES THE SOFT IRON CORE, TRANSFORMING IT INTO A MAGNET.
AS YOU CAN SEE...
DUE NORTH
WHICH WAY IS NORTH?
IN VOLUME 16 WE'RE SUPPOSED TO HEAD NORTH, BUT...

A WARNING FROM THE EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT:
PLEASE DON'T TRY THIS AT HOME!

FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST 16

Hiromu Arakawa

Translation: Akira Watanabe

English Adaptation: Jake Forbes
Touch-up Art & Lettering: Wayne Truman

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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